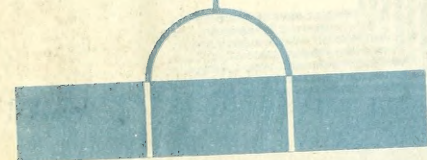


the
university of
connecticut
libraries



3 9153 00816397 6

**THIS VOLUME DOES NOT
CIRCULATE**

This book paper is highly acidic due to the methods and ingredients used in its manufacture. As a result it has become brittle with age. Please handle with care so that information will not be lost to future readers.

A long-range goal of the Library is to purchase an acid-free reprint or microform copy to replace this volume, or to reproduce it in-house on acid-free paper.

Thank you for helping to preserve the University's research collections.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2009 with funding from
Boston Library Consortium Member Libraries

HISTORY
—OF—
WINDHAM COUNTY,
CONNECTICUT.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

EDITED BY
RICHARD M. BAYLES.

*"Land of my sires;—What mortal hand
Can e'er untie the filial band
That knits me to thy rugged strand."*

SCOTT.

NEW YORK:
W. W. PRESTON & CO.

1889.

THIS VOLUME DOES NOT
CIRCULATE

F

102

W7

B3

PRESS OF J. HENRY PROBST,
36 VESEY ST., NEW YORK.

~~974.645~~
~~9B358H~~

PREFACE.

The interest which one feels in knowing and preserving the record of events connected with his own locality, is both natural and commendable. The good citizen must everywhere learn that the roots of the present are in the past, and that only by studying the past can he know the primal circumstances out of which have grown the conditions by which he is at present surrounded. By this study of cause and effect as seen in his local surroundings he is prepared, as every patriotic citizen wishes to be prepared, to plant more intelligently the roots which shall secure to his local society in the future the richest fruits of prosperity and happiness. As our standard of intelligence advances the interest of the people in their local history increases, and we see a constantly growing desire to preserve the story of local events, local traditions, and the facts connected with the lives of those persons who are or have been conspicuous in the local society, and whose influence has given tone and direction to its life, character and history.

The editor congratulates himself and the people of Windham county on the fact that in this work he has been able to bring together the labors of many earnest, enthusiastic students of local history, crystalized in this compilation, where the sons and daughters of old Windham and of new Windham may refer to them to decide those questions which increasing interest in local surroundings will ever thrust upon their attention. It would afford him pleasure to acknowledge personally, all and singular the favors and encouragement he has received from generous friends while engaged in the preparation of this work. But this

pleasure must be foregone, for reasons which are obvious. Besides the draught which by special arrangement with Miss Larned the editor has been permitted to make upon her previously published History of Windham County, he has been ably assisted in this work by Miss Larned herself, who has prepared specially for us a very considerable part of the work. The co-operation in important sections of the subject, of Reverend Francis Williams and Miss Jane Gay Fuller, will also add greatly to the substantial and literary value of the history.

Asking the charitable forbearance of such exacting critics as have never known aught of the difficulties which beset the pathway of the editor and compiler of a work on local history, and expressing the most sincere thanks to all those who have aided him in his labors, the editor closes the work of compilation, trusting that its readers may find it as pleasing to peruse as he has found it exhaustive to prepare.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE.

PAGE.

Physical Features.—Location.—Shape and Area.—Subdivisions.—Surface.—Rivers and Brooks.—Agricultural and Manufacturing Advantages.—Productions.—Manufactures.—Railroads and Transportation.—Old Stage and Freight Wagons.—Taverns of the Olden Time.—The Hilltop Settlements.—Romantic Scenery and Historic Associations.—Geological Formation and Resources.—Elevations of Land.....	1
--	---

CHAPTER II.

THE ABORIGINAL OCCUPANTS.

Algonquin Tribes.—The Mohegans.—The Nipmucks.—The Wabbaquassetts.—Narragansett Claims.—The Quinebaugs.—The Pequot Ascendency.—Language and Customs of the Indians.—Their Implements and Arts.—Superstitions.—Indian Allegiance.—The Whetstone Country.—Intertribal Warfare.—Avenging an Insult.—Uncas and Owaneco.—Christian Influence and the “Praying Indians.”—Visit of Eliot and Gookin.—King Philip’s War.—Its Disastrous Effect upon the “Praying Towns.”—Unjust Treatment of the Indians by the English.—Indian Shrewdness.—Close of King Philip’s War.....	10
--	----

CHAPTER III.

SETTLEMENT.

First Attempts at Settlement.—The Inter-Colonial Route.—Purchase of Land by John Winthrop.—Indian Title and Subsequent Confirmation.—Dispute as to Colonial Jurisdiction.—Indian Claims Revived.—Land in the Market.—Influx of Speculators.—First Lands Laid Out.—Boundary Disputes with Massachusetts.—Claims of Uncas to the Wabbaquasset Country.—Land on the Quinebaug Sold.—Owaneco Appoints James Fitch his Attorney or Guardian.—Makes over to him Mohegan and Wabbaquasset Lands.—Fitch Sells Land to Roxbury.—Joshua Bequeaths Land to Sixteen Norwich Gentlemen.—Agreement of the Legatees.—Windham Settlements Made.—Depression of Improvements under Andros.—Slow Progress of Settlement.—Religious and Social Affairs.—Settlement of the Disputed Section in the Southeast Part of the County.—Some of the Early Settlers.—Early Days of the Quinebaug Country.—Settlement in the Whetstone Country and the Volunteers’ Land.....	23
--	----

CHAPTER IV.

EARLY EVENTS.

PAGE.

Windham County Organized.—General Condition of Society.—Valuations of Property and Productions.—Public Morals.—Their Houses.—Social Conditions.—Organization of Courts.—Court House and Jail.—Militia Organization and Training.—Woodstock Annexed to Worcester County.—Transferred to Windham County.—Organization of Probate Districts.—Emigrations of Inhabitants.—Colonization to Wyoming, N. Y.—The Susquehanna and Delaware Companies.—Settlement of Wyoming.....	40
---	----

CHAPTER V.

THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR.

Military Spirit of the People.—Expedition against Crown Point.—Fasting and Prayer by the People at Home.—Eastern Connecticut Regiment at Lake George.—Distinguished Sons of Windham.—Defeat of Braddock.—Earthquake.—Popular Alarm.—Filling the Ranks with Recruits.—List of Soldiers.—Official Honors.—Capture of Fort William Henry by Montcalm.—Enlistments and Names of Recruits.—Sufferings of the Soldiers, and of their Families at Home.—First Census of Connecticut in 1756.—Population, Valuation, Churches and Schools.—General Progress.....	53
--	----

CHAPTER VI.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD.

Spirit of the People.—Influence of their Leading Patriots, Dyer, Durkee and Putnam.—Indignation at the Stamp Act of 1765.—Burning Effigies.—Positive Demonstrations.—Treatment of Stamp Agents.—Sons of Liberty in Windham.—Popular Outburst in 1767.—Determination of the People against using English Goods.—Closing of the Port of Boston.—Windham the first to send Relief.—Rough Handling of Royal Agents.—The "Boycott" applied to an Adherent of the King.—"Windham Boys" noted for their Aggressive Patriotism.—Fever Heat of the Public Mind.—Alarm from Boston, September, 1774, heralded through the Towns, and answered by Putnam and two hundred Volunteers.—Convention of Delegates at Norwich.—Providing Ammunition.—Preparing for War.—Organization of Militia.—Unity of Sentiment.—Answering the Call from Lexington April 9, 1775.—Gathering of Troops.—Windham County first to send Troops to the Scene of Conflict.—One-fourth of the Militia called out.—Officers of Windham Troops.—Manufacturing Munitions of War.—Windham Soldiers at Bunker Hill.—Earnest Work of the Men at Home.—Energetic Women help on the Cause.—Windham Soldiers after Bunker Hill.—Encouragement at the Withdrawal of British Troops from Boston in 1776.—Manufacture of Powder, Balls and Guns at Home.—More Troops wanted.—At the Battle of Long Island.—Organization of the Troops, 1776.—The "Oliver Cromwell" fitted out.—Depressing Monotony of the long continued War.—Windham County Losses.—Raising their Quotas.—Massacre by the Indians in the Wyoming Valley.—Attempt upon Newport, 1778.—Constancy of Windham Patriots.—Self-sacrificing Women.—The Fallen Heroes.—Young Men in the Field.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

vii

PAGE.

—Raising Troops, 1780.—Armies <i>en route</i> through Windham County.— Cessation of Hostilities.—Return of Peace.—Dealing with the few Tories. —Scanty Pay of the Soldiers.—Organization of new Towns.—Adopting the new Constitution, 1788.—Windham's Representatives in the Conven- tion.....	60
--	----

CHAPTER VII.

WINDHAM COUNTY UNDER THE CONSTITUTION.

Progress after the War.—Immigration and Commercial Enterprise.—The lot of the Farmers.—Moral and Religious Declension.—Slavery disappear- ing.—Remnants of Indian Tribes.—Educational Interests.—Teachers.— Newspapers.—Social Conditions.—Domestic Customs.—Manufacturing Enterprises begin.—The War of 1812.—Party Spirit.—Revival of the Patriotic Spirit.—Recruiting.—Organization of Troops.—First Summons to Arms, June 21st, 1813.—Another Call in September.—To Relief of New London, August 9th, 1814.—On Guard at Stonington.—Peace re- stored, 1815.—Appropriate Celebrations of the Event.....	88
--	----

CHAPTER VIII.

THE CIVIL WAR.

An Age of Prosperity.—Growth of the Union and Anti-Slavery Sentiment.— The Strongest Republican County in Connecticut.—Outbreak of the Re- bellion.—County Mass Meeting.—Volunteer Companies Formed.—The Uprising of the Martial Spirit.—Popular Excitement.—Raising the Flag. —Recruiting.—Death of General Nathaniel Lyon.—Windham's Interest in General McClellan.—Organizations Represented by Windham County Soldiers.—Responses to Later Calls.—The Eighteenth Regiment.—Work of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions at Home.—The Martyrs to the Union Cause.....	99
--	----

CHAPTER IX.

WINDHAM COUNTY OF TO-DAY.

Its Towns and their present condition.—Their Population at different periods.—Conspicuous Citizens.—Presidential Candidates.—Honored Sons of Windham.—State Senators.—Presidents <i>pro tem.</i> of the Senate.— Speakers of the House.—Present Representatives.—The Courts.—County Officers.—Literary Associations.—Agricultural Society.—Temperance Society.—Temperance Movements.....	105
---	-----

CHAPTER X.

PUBLIC CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS.

The Towns' Poor.—Early Methods of dealing with Dependents.—Increase of Burdens by the French War.—Meagre Fare and Accommodations.—Emi- gration and Temperance decreases the Burdens.—Present Costs and Man- agement of the Poor.—Children's Temporary Home.—Its Management and present successful Work.—The Record of Crime in Windham Coun- ty.—Capital Punishment.—Execution of Criminals.—Elizabeth Shaw, Caleb Adams, Samuel Freeman, Oliver Watkins.—Other notable Crimes. —Jail Buildings.—Their Occupants.—Removal from Windham to Brook- lyn.—Official Keepers.—Statistics of the present Jail.....	117
---	-----

CHAPTER XI.

THE BENCH AND BAR OF WINDHAM COUNTY.

PAGE.

Early Attorneys.—Elisha Paine.—Samuel Huntington.—Jabez Fitch.—Eliphalet Dyer.—Jedidiah Elderkin.—Zephaniah Swift.—Thomas Stedman.—David Bolles.—Sylvanus Backus.—Daniel Kies.—Other Windham County Lawyers of Former Times.—Courts Removed to Brooklyn.—The Windham County Bar in 1820.—Chauncey F. Cleveland.—Glimpses of Many Practicing Attorneys.—William Smith Scarborough.—Lucius H. Rickard.—Elliot B. Sumner.—Abiel Converse.—Earl Martin.—Edward Cundall.—John J. Penrose.—George W. Melony.—Seymour A. Tingier.—Benjamin S. Warner.—Calvin M. Brooks.—Albert McC. Mathewson.—Andrew Jackson Bowen.—John L. Hunter.—George A. Conant.—Arthur G. Bill.—Gilbert W. Phillips.—Randolph H. Chandler.—Eric H. Johnson.—Charles E. Searls.—Samuel H. Seward.—Edgar M. Warner.—William G. Buteau.—Ebenezer Stoddard.—Louis B. Cleveland.—Thomas E. Graves.—G. S. F. Stoddard.—John M. Hall.—James H. Potter.—George Larned.—Simon Davis.....	138
---	-----

CHAPTER XII.

THE MEDICAL FRATERNITY.

The first Physicians in the different Towns.—Their influence on Society.—Later Practitioners.—Conspicuous Members.—Jonathan Huntington.—Albigence Waldo.—Samuel Lee.—Benjamin Hubbard.—Elisha Perkins.—After the Revolution.—Raising the Professional Standard.—Glimpses of the Physicians practicing in the early years of the Century.—The County Medical Society.—Lewis Williams.—Justin Hammond.—Samuel Hutchins.—Charles H. Rogers.—Ernest D. Kimball.—Frank E. Guild.—Chester Hunt.—David C. Card.—E. D. Card.—Eliphalet Huntington.—Charles James Fox.—Theodore R. Parker.—Samuel David.—Oliver B. Griggs.—Dewitt C. Lathrop.—Francis X. Barolet.—Gardner L. Miller.—Frederic A. Morrell.—Omer La Rue.—Daniel B. Plimpton.—Lowell Holbrook.—Ichabod L. Bradley.—Louis Oude Morasse.—William Richardson.—Levi A. Bliss.—Frederick G. Sawtelle.—Seth Rogers.—John B. Kent.—Elisha K. Robbins.—S. P. Ladd.—F. S. Burgess.—Nathaniel Hibbard.—Henry L. Hammond.—Harvey L. Converse.—James F. McIntosh.—Jesse M. Coburn.—S. C. Chase.—William H. Judson.—Orin Witter, Sr.—Orin Witter, Jr.—Hiram Holt.—William Witter.—Henry R. Lowe.—William A. Lewis.—Isaac B. Gallup.....	169
--	-----

CHAPTER XIII.

ANECDOTE AND LOCAL STORY OF OLD WINDHAM.

The Mystery of Cates.—The Battle of the Frogs.—Revolutionary Anecdotes.—That Little God Bacchus.—The House the Women Raised.—The Black Sheep.—A Character.—“Tea-total.”—Doctor Cogswell and Phyllis.—An Old Family of Scotland.—The Story of Micah Rood.—“No blood relation of mine.”—The Fine.—Story of Abijah Fuller.—Sabbath Breaking.—Strong minded Women.—The First Locomotive.—Windham Wags.—Old Time Pedagogues.....	205
---	-----

CHAPTER XIV.

THE TOWN OF WINDHAM.

PAGE.

Geographical Description.—Settlement.—Town Charter and Organization.— The Early Settlers.—Laying out the Land.—County Relations.—Early Town Officers.—Enlargement of Territory.—Settlement of the Eastern Quarter.—Mechanical and Commercial Trades Introduced.—Division of Town and Formation of Mansfield.—Various Phases of Public Interest.— Growth of the Northeast Section, called Canada Parish.—Society Organi- zation.—Probate Court Established.—Some Prominent Families.—Wind- ham made Shiretown.—Attempts at Manufacturing.—Scotland Society Organized.—Town Action.—Schools.—Early Taverns.—Prosperity of the Town.—Industries.—Under the War Clouds.—Removal of the Courts.— Reduction of Territory.—Through the Revolution.—Material Prosperity. —Social Innovations.—Roads and Bridges.....	252
---	-----

CHAPTER XV.

THE TOWN OF WINDHAM (CONCLUDED).

Employing a Minister.—Building a Church.—Withdrawal of Mansfield.— Successive Pastors.—The Separate Movement.—Religious Declension.— The Father of President Cleveland.—Gradual Dissolving of the Town Church into the Windham Centre (local) Church.—Schools of the Town. —Early Newspaper.—Old-time Taverns.—Manufacturing Begun.—Gun- powder, Silk and Paper.—Windham Centre.—Cemetery.—Congregation- al, Episcopal and Baptist Churches.—South Windham.—Manufacturing Enterprises.—Congregational Church.—North Windham.—Manufactur- ies.—Church, Cemetery and School.—Biographical Sketches....	279
--	-----

CHAPTER XVI.

WILLIMANTIC.

General Description.—Communication with the World.—Some Public Feat- ures.—Retrospect of Half a Century.—Early Stages of the Cotton Mill In- dustries.—Starting of the Windham and Smithville Companies.—First Steps of the Linen Company's Plant.—Early Builders of the Village.— The Post Office.—Incorporation of the Borough.—Fire Companies and Engines.—Fire Department.—Destructive Fires.—Water Works.—Public Schools.—Libraries.—Churches: Congregational, Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Episcopal, Spiritualist, Mission Hall, Camp Meeting.—Growth of Manufacturing.—Windham Company.—Smithville Company.—Linen Company.—Holland Silk Company.—Morrison Company.—Chaffee & Son.—Turner Silk Mill.—Natchaug Silk Company.—Foundry.—Builders and Other Manufacturers.—Board of Trade.—Cemeteries.—Masonic His- tory.—Benefit Societies.—Banks.—Buildings.—Newspapers, Printing and Wood Type.—Biographical Sketches....	310
---	-----

CHAPTER XVII.

THE TOWN OF HAMPTON.

Beautiful Scenery.—Location and Description.—Settlement.—A Part of Wind- ham.—Organized as Canada Parish.—Its Historic Hills.—As Windham	
---	--

Village.—Constituted a Town.—Facts and Figures.—Bridges.—Pound.—	
Poor Dependents.—Town Business.—Heroic Women of the Revolution.—	
Military Matters.—Business Activity.—Manufacturing Projects.—The	
Railroad.—School Matters.—The Town Church.—Baptists.—Abbe-ites.—	
Christ-ians.—Roman Catholic Church.—Library.—Little River Grange.—	
Mills and Manufactories.—Biographical Sketches.....	372

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE TOWN OF SCOTLAND.

Description.—Original Connection.—First Settler.—Early Attractions.—Set-	
tlers coming in.—Church Association.—Disquiet in Society Relations.—	
Scotland Society Organized.—Minister Employed and a Meeting House	
Built.—Peace and Prosperity.—The Separate Movement.—Separate	
Church.—The Standing Church and the Schools.—Leading Men in So-	
cietv.—Successive Pastors.—Period of the Revolution.—The Congrega-	
tional Church in Later Days.—Universalism.—Business and Industry in	
the Town.—Organization of the Town.—Its Size and Growth.—Illustri-	
ous Citizens.—Present Status.—Shetucket Grange.—The Green and its	
Surroundings.....	383

CHAPTER XIX.

THE TOWN OF CHAPLIN.

General Description.—Settlement of the Region.—An Ecclesiastical Society	
Organized.—Town Privileges Obtained.—General Progress.—Manufac-	
tures.—Paper Mills, Lumber Mills, and Manufactories of Wheelbarrows,	
Plow-beams, Spools, Woolen Cloth, Boxes and Shingles.—Schools and	
Teachers.—The Church of Chewink Plains.—A Protestant Methodist	
Church.—Deacon Benjamin Chaplin.—The Congregational Church.—	
Its Successive Pastors.—Biographical Sketches.....	411

CHAPTER XX.

THE TOWN OF PLAINFIELD.

Description.—Statistics.—Settlement and Settlers.—The Town Organized.—	
Conflicting Land Claims.—The Gospel Ministry.—Division of Lands.—	
Indian War.—Settlement of Land Disputes.—Progress of the Settle-	
ment.—An Epidemic.—The Separate Movement.—French Prisoners of	
War.—Town Officers, 1765.—Facilities of Commerce.—Old Tavern.—The	
Poor and the Oppressed.—Emigration.—During the Revolution.—Re-	
vival of Business Enterprises.—Increase of Manufacturing.—Highways	
and Bridges.—The Ecclesiastical Society and Church.—Congregational	
Church of Plainfield Street.—The "September Gale."—The Separate	
Church.—Quaker Meeting House... ..	428

CHAPTER XXI.

THE TOWN OF PLAINFIELD (CONCLUDED).

Plainfield of To-day.—The Methodist Church.—Union Baptist Church.—Con-	
gregational Church, Central Village.—Wauregan, Mills, Congregational	
Church and Village.—All Hallows R. C. Church, Moosup.—Schools of	
the Town.—Plainfield Academy.—Eminent Men of Plainfield.—Village	

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

xi

	PAGE.
Schools.—Manufactures.—Wauregan.—Moosup.—Central Village.—Kennedy City.—Plainfield Junction.—The Freshet of 1886.—Fraternal Societies.—Prominent Names of a Former Generation.—Biographical Sketches.....	451

CHAPTER XXII.

THE TOWN OF CANTERBURY.

Canterbury Geography.—Statistics.—Settlement of the Quinebaug Plantation.—Major Fitch.—Fitch and Winthrop Conflicting Claims.—Town Charter and Organization.—Boundary Disputes.—First Meeting House.—Dividing Line Established.—Adjusting Land Titles.—Distribution of Common Lands.—Ecclesiastical History.—Separate Movement.—Westminster Church and Society Formed.—Restoration of Harmony.—The Methodist Churches.—Roads and Bridges.—Accident on the Shetucket.—Bridges, Dams and Floods.—Turnpike Projects and Other Highways.—Public Education.—Miss Prudence Crandall's School.—General Town Progress.—Immigration and Enterprise.—Westminster Society.—Canterbury Manufacturing.—Canterbury Separate Church.—Baptists and Episcopalians.—Packerville Baptist Church.—Packerville Growth.—Masonic Lodge.—Biographical Sketches.....	481
---	-----

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE TOWN OF POMFRET.

Description.—The Wabbaquasset Country.—Purchase by Roxbury Men.—The Mashamoquet Tract.—Blackwell's Purchase.—The Mortlake Patent.—The Mashamoquet Purchase Allotted.—Town Privileges Obtained.—Indian War.—Settlers and Settlement.—Progress.—The Town Fully Organized.—Mortlake Management.—Mashamoquet Proprietors.—Increasing Population.—Prosperity of the Settlement.—Good Health of the People.—Slow Progress of Mortlake.—Inhabitants in 1731.—Abington Society Erected.—Mortlake Transferred to New Proprietors.—Social Character of the People.—Business Fluctuations.—Literary Movements.—Libraries.—Pomfret Hall.—Schools.—Roads and Bridges.—Improvements in the Quinebaug.—Great Thoroughfares.—Ecclesiastical History.—First Society and Church.—Disturbing Controversies.—Baptist Church.—Christ Church.—Quakers.—Methodists.—Roman Catholic Church.—Pomfret Landing.—Biographical Sketches.....	517
---	-----

CHAPTER XXIV.

THE SOCIETY OF ABINGTON.

Organization.—Settlers.—Schools.—Church Progress.—Congregational Church.—Church of the Messiah.—Second Advent Church.—Libraries.—Hall.—Manufacturing.—Charles Osgood.....	557
---	-----

CHAPTER XXV.

THE TOWN OF BROOKLYN.

Facts and Figures.—Movement of Settlers.—Richard Adams.—Isolated Settlers.—Division of Vacant Lands.—The Stoddard Tract.—Heterogeneous Settlement.—A Minister Employed.—Organization of "The Society	
--	--

	PAGE.
taken out of Pomfret, Canterbury and Mortlake."—Becomes Brooklyn Parish.—The Town Chartered.—List of Inhabitants.—Business and Public Questions.—The County Seat Moved Here.—Brooklyn Newspapers.—Putnam and the Wolf.—General Putnam.—Godfrey Malbone.—Roads and Bridges.—Manufacturing Enterprises.—School Accommodations.—Church History, early and late.—Banks.—Insurance Company.—Agricultural Society.—Creamery.—Decline of Manufactures.—Biographical Sketches.....	564
CHAPTER XXVI.	
THE TOWN OF STERLING:	
Geographical Description.—The Volunteers' Land.—Settlement as Volun- town.—Division of the Land.—Town Privileges.—Presbyterian Church Organized.—Lands Laid Out.—Sterling Town Organized.—Meeting House Erected.—General Progress.—Public Highways.—School Mat- ters.—The Voluntown and Sterling Church.—Line Meeting House.— Sterling Hill Baptist Church.—Other Churches.—Manufacturing.— Rocks and Quarries.—Oneco.—Decline of Manufactures.—The Grange.—Biographical Sketches.....	605
CHAPTER XXVII.	
THE TOWN OF THOMPSON.	
Location, Description, Geology.—Pre-historic Occupants.—The Indians of this Region.—Early White Settlers.—Quinnatisset Hill.—Increase of Population.—Land Controversies.—Pattaquatic.—Highways in the Wil- derness.—Bridge Building.—Samuel Morris.—Early Attempt to secure Town Privileges.—Second or North Society of Killingly.—Thompson Parish.—Land west of the Quinebaug annexed.—Building the Meeting House.—Religious Worship Established.—Military Company.—Non-resi- dent Land-owners.—Various Improvements.—Schools.—Town Affairs.— The French War.—The Old Red Tavern.—Business and Finance.—The Revolutionary Period.—Quadic Shipyard.—Petitions for Town Priv- ileges.....	624
CHAPTER XXVIII.	
THE TOWN OF THOMPSON (CONTINUED).	
Organization.—Affairs of the Body Corporate.—Foreign Trade and Traffic.— Highways.—Thompson Turnpike.—Fourth of July Celebration.—Pro- tection against Small-pox.—General Progress.—New Town Scheme.— The Civil War.—Temperance Sentiment.—Modern Improvements.— Town Expenses and Government.—The Public Schools.—First Church of Thompson.—First Baptist Church.—Baptist Church of Thompson Hill.—Methodists at West Thompson.—Fisherville Methodist Church.— East Thompson Methodist Church.....	647
CHAPTER XXIX.	
THE TOWN OF THOMPSON (CONCLUDED).	
Manufactures.—The Swamp Factory.—Fisherville Factory.—Water Priv- ileges.—Grosvenor Dale, Masonville.—North Grosvenor Dale.—Changes	

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

xiii

PAGE.

Wrought by the Manufacturing Interests.—Catholic Churches.—The Swedish Church of Grosvenor Dale.—Connecticut Manufacturing Company.—The "Brick" Factory.—West Thompson.—Mechanicsville.—Quadic Manufacturing Company.—Brandy Hill.—The Northeast Section.—Wilsonville.—New Boston.—Thompson Village.—A "Boom" to Thompson Hill.—Old-Time Taverns.—Social Customs.—Railroad Opening.—Thompson Bank.—Fire Engine Company.—Some Prominent People.—Summer Inhabitants.—The Sons of Thompson.—Thompson Grange.—Biographical Sketches.....	683
--	-----

CHAPTER XXX.

THE TOWN OF PUTNAM.

Incorporation and General Description.—Early History.—First Settlers.—West of the Quinebaug.—The South Neighborhood.—Early Improvement of Water Privileges.—Roads and Bridges.—The Stone Mills.—Early Homestead Residents.—The French War.—The Revolution.—After the War.—Cargill's Mills.—Quinebaug High Falls.—Educational and Religious.—Killingly Hill.—Beginning of Cotton Manufacturing.—Pomfret Factory.—During the War of 1812.—Residents and Managers of the Factory.—Rhodesville.—Building up of Additional Factories.—Rival and Conflicting Interests of Three Adjoining Towns.—Various Propositions and Controversy.—Organization of the new Town of Putnam.....	749
--	-----

CHAPTER XXXI.

THE TOWN OF PUTNAM (CONCLUDED).

Officers and Statistics.—Layout of Roads and Naming Streets.—Establishment of Churches.—Baptist Church.—Congregational Church.—Methodist Church.—Catholic Church.—Episcopal Church.—Advent Christian Church.—Other Religious Societies.—Schools.—Cotton Manufactures.—Pomfret Factory Woolen Co.—Silk Manufactures.—Shoe Manufacture.—Artisans and Mechanics.—Business Men's Association.—Village Development.—Various Manufacturing Enterprises.—Creamery.—Water Works.—Commercial Houses.—Business Blocks.—Hotels.—Banks.—Fire Department.—Fraternal Societies.—Celebrations.—Temperance Movements.—Library Association.—Newspapers.—Orchestral Music.—Antique Art Loan Exhibition.—Village Cemetery.—Other Burial Grounds.—Old Killingly Hill, now Putnam Heights.—East Putnam.—Its Local Institutions.—Biographical Sketches.....	778
---	-----

CHAPTER XXXII.

THE TOWN OF WOODSTOCK.

General Description and Geology.—Aborigines.—Visit of Eliot and Gookin.—The Narragansett War.—New Roxbury Colony.—Incorporation as Woodstock and Subsequent Events.—Indian Troubles.—Important Changes.—Final Division of Roxbury's Half of Woodstock.—Second Meeting House.—Ministerial Troubles.—Indian Alarms.—Land Divisions.—Worcester County Erected.—Early Schools.—Controversy with Colonel Chandler.—Settlement of West Woodstock.—Precinct Organized.—Building of Meeting House.—Organization of Church.—Woodstock's Revolt.—Contest between Massachusetts and Connecticut.—Church Division.—Various Town Affairs.....	831
--	-----

CHAPTER XXXIII.

THE TOWN OF WOODSTOCK (CONCLUDED).

PAGE.

Early Industries.—Manufacturing.—Decline of Manufacturing.—Agriculture. —Woodstock Agricultural Society.—Senexet Grange.—Theft Detecting Society.—Woodstock Academy.—Church on Woodstock Hill.—The Sec- ond Church.—Baptist Churches.—East Woodstock Church.—Methodism. —Universalist Church.—Advent Christian Church.—Present Condition. —Public Celebrations.—Biographical Sketches.....	876
---	-----

CHAPTER XXXIV.

THE TOWN OF KILLINGLY.

Location and Description.—Original Killingly.—The Whetstone Country.— First Proprietors.—Attempts at Settlement.—Bounds and Claims.—Set- tlers and Settlement.—The Town Organized.—Localities.—Counterfeit- ers.—General Progress.—Taking Care of the Poor.—Highways.—Early Manufacturing.—Prosperity of Manufacturing Interests.—The Gospel Ministry.—Meeting House Controversy.—The Second Society formed.— South Killingly Church.....	921
---	-----

CHAPTER XXXV.

THE TOWN OF KILLINGLY (CONCLUDED).

Chestnut Hill.—Baptist Churches.—Cotton Mills.—Elliottville Mills.—Elm- ville Mills.—Attawaugan Mills.—M. E. Church.—Ballouville.—Dayville. —Manufactories.—Churches.—Societies.—Williamsville.—The Borough of Danielsonville.—Public Works.—Great Freshet.—Schools.—Churches. —Banks.—Music Hall.—Manufacturing Establishments.—Masonic and other Societies.—Newspapers.—Biographical Sketches.....	948
---	-----

CHAPTER XXXVI.

THE TOWN OF ASHFORD.

The Wabbaquasset Country.—Land Speculators.—Settlement of Ashford.— Major Fitch.—James Corbin.—New Scituate.—The Town Established.— Titles Confirmed.—Common Proprietors.—Land Controversies.—Civil Disorder.—Military Company.—Population and Growth.—Public Morals and Order.—Growth of the Settlement.—Early Town Officers.—Land Title War.—Days of the Revolution.—Visit of President Washington.— Post Office, Taverns and Probate Court.—Honored Sons.—Roads and Bridges.—Schools.—Ecclesiastical History.—First Church.—The Great Revival and the Separates.—Westford Congregational Church.—Meet- ing Houses and Ministers.—First Baptist Church.—Eminent Men of Westford.—Baptist Church of Westford.—Manufacturing in Westford.— Warrenville Baptist Church.—Manufacturing and Business at Warren- ville.—Eminent Sons of Ashford.—Babcock Library and Band.—Bio- graphical Sketch	990
---	-----

CHAPTER XXXVII.

THE TOWN OF EASTFORD.

Location and Description.—Organized as an Ecclesiastical Society.—Cotton Mills.—Search for Gold.—Latham Twine Mill.—Smith Snow.—Crystal Lake.—Factories of Eastford Village.—Cotton and Woolen, Wagon	
---	--

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

XV

PAGE.

Wheels, Leather, Boots and Shoes, Axes and Hatchets, Carriages, Scythes, Plow Handles and Beams, Bobbins.—Town Incorporation.— Communication.—Honored Sons.—Congregational Church.—The Society of North Ashford.—The Methodist Church.—Ministers and Teachers.— The "Church of Bacchus."—Creamery.—Biographical Sketch.....	1027
---	------

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

Personal Paragraphs.....	1042
--------------------------	------

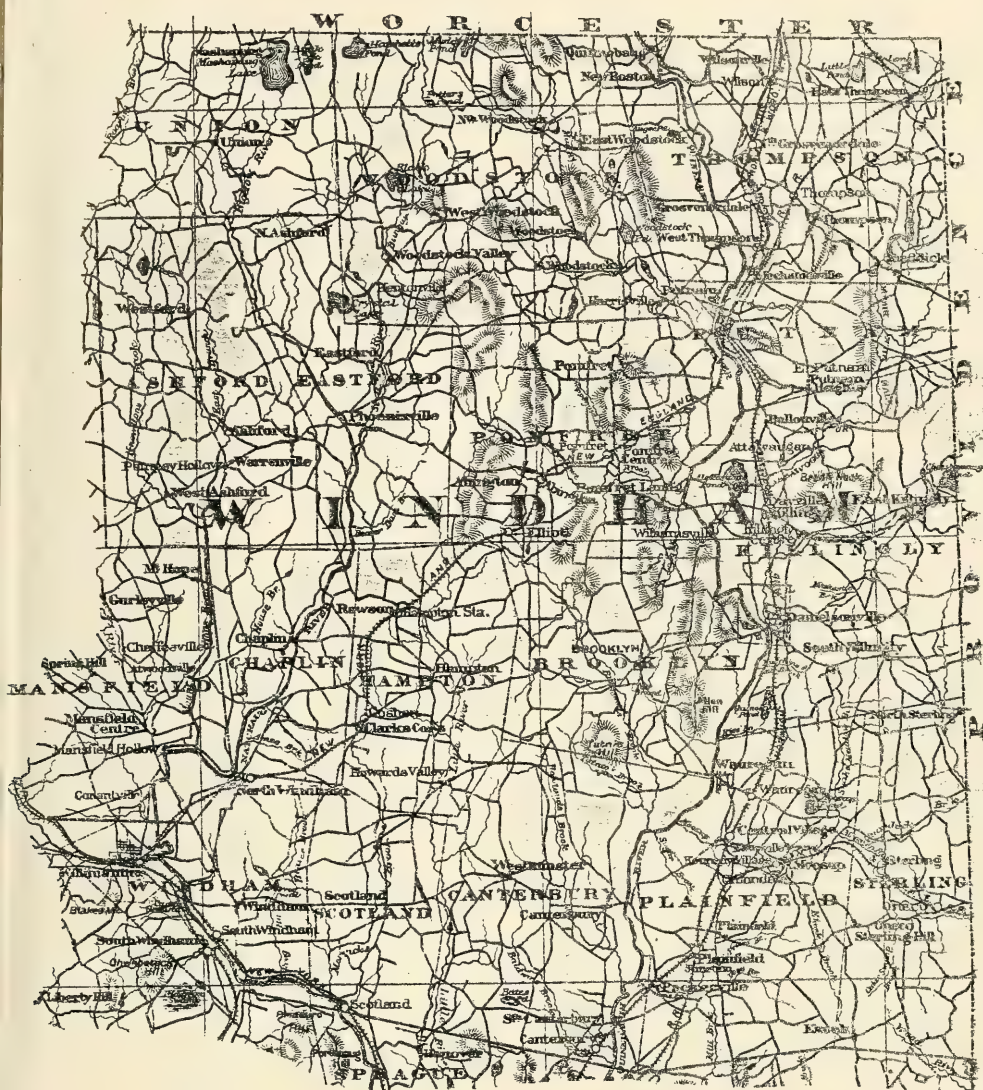
PORTRAITS.

Aldrich, David L.....	468
Aldrich, Edward.....	720
Arnold, William S.....	815
Atwood, James S.....	470
Atwood, William A.....	982
Babcock, William S.....	471
Baldwin, Lloyd E.....	365
Bartholomew, William I.....	550
Bates, Ambrose H.....	620
Bates, Gustavus D.....	817
Bates, Jerome E.....	721
Beebe, William S.....	722
Bishop, Ebenezer.....	909
Bowen, Stephen O.....	1040
Briggs, Lucius.....	728
Buck, George.....	816
Bugbee, Edwin H.....	984
Burgess, Frank S.....	195
Card, David C.....	182
Carpenter, Elisha.....	146
Carpenter, John A.....	818
Chaffee, J. Dwight.....	367
Child, Abel.....	910
Cleveland, Edward Spicer.....	389
Converse, Abiel.....	150
Converse, Elisha S.....	732
Converse, James W.....	730
Cranska, Floyd.....	472
Dean, Ezra.....	912
Elliott, Henry.....	734
Evans, Thomas J.....	986
Fox, John O.....	819
Fuller, Lucius H.....	820
Green, Marquis.....	913
Greene, Albert C.....	473
Greenslit, David.....	390
Griggs, David A.....	424
Grosvenor, William.....	736
Haskins, Rufus T.....	407
Hatch, Jonathan.....	306
Holt, George W., Jr.....	822
Hopkins, Timothy E.....	987

	PAGE.
Hutchins, Joseph.....	474
Jillson, William C.....	368
Knowlton, Danford.....	1024
Larned, Ellen D.....	714
Lincoln, Edgar S.....	425
Lyon, William, 4th.....	914
McClellan, John.....	915
Manning, James W.....	824
Mathewson, Rufus S.....	552
May, Charles H.....	916
Messenger, Frank M.....	739
Miller, Gardner L.....	188
Milner, Edwin.....	476
Morse, George M.....	827
Morse, Joseph M.....	918
Morse, Milton S.....	826
Moseley, Samuel S.....	392
Moulton, George S.....	307
Murdock, George T.....	740
Murdock, G. Thurston.....	741
Nichols, Franklin.....	743
Osgood, Charles H.....	554
Paine, Almond M.....	988
Palmer, William F.....	408
Parker, Alfred M.....	828
Penrose, John J.....	154
Perry, Oliver H.....	920
Phillips, Gilbert W.....	158
Phipps, Benjamin F.....	744
Pike, James.....	622
Putnam, William H.....	602
Ross, William.....	426
Sanger, Marvin H.....	514
Scarborough, George.....	604
Searls, Charles E.....	160
Smith, Guilford.....	308
Spalding, Chandler A.....	830
Sprague, Samuel B.....	410
Stanton, Avery A.....	623
Stranahan, J. S. T.....	478
Thayer, Charles D.....	745
Towne, Marcus F.....	746
Warner, Alexander.....	556
Westcott, Henry.....	989
Williams, Francis.....	423
Witter, William C.....	370
Wood, Darius.....	516

VIEWS, ETC.

Map of Windham County.....	1
Residence of George Lothrop Bradley.....	704
The "Ben-Grosvenor".....	710



Scale of Miles
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

MAP OF WINDHAM COUNTY, CONNECTICUT.

W. W. PRESTON & CO.,
Publishers.

HISTORY OF WINDHAM COUNTY.

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE.

Physical Features.—Location.—Shape and Area.—Subdivisions.—Surface.—Rivers and Brooks.—Agricultural and Manufacturing Advantages.—Productions.—Manufactures.—Railroads and Transportation.—Old Stage and Freight Wagons.—Taverns of the Olden Time.—The Hilltop Settlements.—Romantic Scenery and Historic Associations.—Geological Formation and Resources.—Elevations of Land.

WINDHAM COUNTY occupies the northeastern corner of the state of Connecticut, bordering Worcester county, Massachusetts, lying on the north, and Providence and Kent counties in Rhode Island on the east. New London county bounds it on the south and Tolland on the west. Its greatest length, from north to south, is twenty-seven miles, and its greatest width, from east to west, is twenty-three miles. Its north, east and south sides are nearly straight lines, while on the west side its territory interchanges offsets with Tolland. The greatest variation in the line made by these offsets, however, does not exceed six miles. This occurs on the northwest corner, where the town of Union makes an advance of about the distance mentioned. We may explain that the longest north and south line would be drawn from the northwest corner of Thompson to the southwest corner of Plainfield, and the longest east and west line would be drawn from the northwest corner of Windham to the Rhode Island line, about the middle of Sterling.

The county contains an area of six hundred and twenty square miles and a population, by the last census, of 43,856. This number, however, comprehends the population of Voluntown, then 1,186, which has since been set off from Windham to New

London. The population at present would doubtless still exceed that of the census year, since the rapid growth of several of its manufacturing villages would several times make up the deficiency caused by the loss of that town. The county as now constituted contains the towns of Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson, Windham and Woodstock, fifteen in all; and included in these towns are the incorporated boroughs of Danielsonville and Willimantic.

The surface is rugged and broken. But few spots of level land to any considerable extent of area may be found in the county. The most noticeable is the stretch of tolerably level valley that extends in a northeasterly and southwesterly direction through the heart of Plainfield and southern part of Canterbury. This covers a length of perhaps ten miles, and, though in some parts of the country it would be called decidedly rolling, its character is by comparison with its surroundings so nearly level that it was called by the early settlers the "plains," and so gave name to the town of Plainfield.

The rugged character of the surface, of which we have spoken, while it is opposed to the most felicitous advancement of the arts of agriculture, affords two features of great advantage to the county, and which are indeed the main sources of prosperity, either realized in the present or expected in the future. These are the copious streams and rapid falls, which have invited the numerous manufacturing industries for which the county is noted, and the never ending variety and natural magnificence of its scenery which have fascinated thousands, and for which the county is equally celebrated. Although the hills have no regular grouping, yet in general they are cast into ridges running north and south, and down the valleys so formed numerous streams flow in a generally southward direction. So numerous are these streams that hardly a square mile can be found in the whole county but upon it may be found a site for a saw mill or some more considerable manufacturing enterprise. With a very slight exception, in the northwestern part of Woodstock, the entire county is drained by the Quinebaug, Natchaug, Willimantic and Shetucket rivers, the waters of all of which finally empty into the ocean through the Thames.

Along the valleys of these streams the soil is fertile, and upon the hillsides in years gone by agriculture was successfully car-

ried on. This industry, however, has in many parts of the county greatly declined, and the agricultural population has decreased in numbers, while the manufacturing population in the villages has largely increased. The agricultural interests of the county are still important. The value of farms, with improvements and buildings thereon, is about nine million dollars, and the county contains one hundred and ninety thousand acres of improved farm land, divided into three thousand farms. It is estimated that these farms annually produce about one and a half million dollars worth. The most important of these productions are annually about 180,000 bushels of Indian corn, 140,000 bushels of oats, 275,000 bushels of potatoes, 50,000 tons of hay, 20,000 bushels of buckwheat, 17,000 bushels of rye, 4,000 bushels of barley and about \$15,000 worth of orchard fruit. The dairy products consist of about three hundred and fifty tons of butter and eighty tons of cheese. In the last mentioned product it exceeds any other county in the state except Litchfield. There are employed on farms some five thousand horses and about half the number of working oxen. The facilities for grazing accommodate about twenty thousand head of cattle, twelve thousand of which are milch cows. Sheep husbandry receives some attention, about seven thousand sheep being kept, and their annual fleece amounts to twenty-nine thousand pounds of wool. About seven thousand hogs are annually fattened. The forest growth of the county is considerable. Besides wood for various manufacturing purposes considerable lumber, including shingles, is obtained from the forests which cover large areas of the hills. The most common kinds of wood are the hickory, oak, elm, beech, pine and other trees.

The largest river of the county is the Quinebaug. This rises in Worcester county, Mass., and flowing the entire length of this county, joins the Shetucket in New London county. Its course is through the eastern part of Windham county, where it forms the entire western boundary of Killingly and the eastern boundary of Brooklyn, as well as partial boundary of Plainfield, Canterbury, Pomfret and Putnam. In its course through the county it receives numerous tributaries, the most important of which are Muddy brook from Woodstock, the Assawaga or Five Mile river from Thompson, Putnam and Killingly, the Mashamoquet from Pomfret, Blackwell's brook from Brooklyn, and the Moosup river from Plainfield and Sterling. The western part

of the county is drained by the Natchaug river, which receives the waters of several brooks from Ashford, which form Mount Hope river, as well as several other branches from Woodstock, Ashford and Chaplin. The Natchaug joins the Willimantic a short distance east of the village of the latter name, and the union thus formed takes the name Shetucket. Little river, draining Hampton and the west side of Canterbury, flows into the Shetucket beyond the limits of the county. These streams afford power for a large number of manufacturing establishments of various kinds and magnitude, from the large cotton, silk and thread mills, employing hundreds of operatives, down to the Woodside saw mill tended by a single pair of hands.

Windham county has extensive manufactures of cotton, woolen, silk and linen thread, besides various other kinds. The last census shows 288 establishments engaged in this branch of industry. The capital employed in manufacturing was \$14,026,975. The number of operatives employed in these establishments was 4,789 men, 3,296 women, and 1,643 children and youth under the ages of sixteen years for males and fifteen years for females. The total amount of wages annually earned by these operatives was \$2,607,418. The value of material used was \$7,951,403; and the value of products annually finished was \$14,022,290. The principal manufacturing villages are Willimantic, Danielsonville and Putnam. The villages of Moosup, Central Village, Wauregan, Dayville and North Grosvenor Dale are also prospering under the stimulus of this industry.

The county is fairly supplied with railroad facilities, especially through the central, southern and eastern parts. An exception to this remark must be made for the northwestern part. The towns of Woodstock, Eastford and Ashford are not touched by any railroad. The same is true of Brooklyn, though it is almost surrounded by railroads but a short distance beyond its borders. Canterbury, Scotland and Chaplin each have a railroad cutting across a corner of the town. Altogether the county is traversed by about one hundred miles of railroad line. The New York & New England railroad traverses the county diagonally from the southwest corner to the northeast corner, a distance of about thirty-five miles. This is a well equipped, double track railroad. The Norwich & Worcester railroad traverses the eastern part of the county, from north to south, making a length within the county of twenty-eight miles. The

Hartford & Providence railroad crosses the southeastern corner of the county, making within it a distance of thirteen miles. The New London Northern railroad has about seven miles of its length in the southwest corner, and the Stockbridge railroad has about five miles of its line in the northeastern corner.

It is largely to these railroad facilities that the present prosperity of the county is due. A native writer of prominence says: "Modern Windham dates its birth from the first whistle of the steam engine. That clarion cry awoke the sleeping valleys. Energy, enterprise, progress followed its course. At every stopping place new life sprung up. Factory villages received immediate impetus, and plentiful supply of cotton. Larger manufacturing enterprises were speedily planned and executed, foreign help brought in; capital and labor, business and invention rushed to the railroad stations; innumerable interests and industries developed, and in less than a score of years the county was revolutionized. The first had become last and the last first. The turnpike was overgrown, stage coach and cotton team had vanished, the old hill villages had lost the leadership, and new railroad centers held the balance of power and drew to themselves the best blood and energies of the towns."

The Norwich & Worcester railroad was commenced in the year 1835, and was opened for traffic here in the early part of 1839. The Hartford & Providence railroad was completed as far as Willimantic and opened for use December 1st, 1849. That portion of the road which extends eastward from the latter point to Providence was completed and opened for use October 2d, 1854. The New York & New England main line, a later enterprise, was completed between Willimantic and Putnam in 1872, and opened for use in August of that year.

Before the advent of railroads raw material was brought into the county, and the manufactured products sent out by means of heavily loaded teams hauling long distances over the numerous turnpikes and public roads which were then much frequented thoroughfares, but are now many of them almost deserted roads. Great lines of travel for stage coaches, mail routes and hauling goods from Boston to Hartford and New York, and from Providence to Hartford, and from Worcester to Norwich and New London, lay through this county. These roads in those days presented scenes of considerable activity. Heavily loaded wagons, sometimes with eight draft horses before a single wagon, made

a business of hauling goods back and forth and were constantly on the road. The principal manufacturing village of this county was then as now Willimantic, and stock and goods were interchanged in this way between that village and the three outlet cities of Hartford, Providence and Norwich. The round trip to Hartford or Norwich and return was made in two days, while that to Providence occupied five days. Three different routes were used by the through travel from the eastern cities to Hartford and New York; a southern one, passing through Plainfield, a central one through Windham Centre and Scotland, and one more northerly passing through Brooklyn and Danielsonville. Then there were other routes intersecting some of the more northern towns.

As might naturally be expected houses of "entertainment for man and beast" were frequent all along these routes. These old time hostelries were commodious and afforded the means of making guests comfortable without much assumption of cold formalities. However, it must not be supposed that the entertainers of those days were such boorish rustics as not to be able on occasion to display such dignified graces as were appropriate to the position. But the material cheer to be found in the well supplied table and full stocked bar-room, with the ample accommodations at the barn for their horses, was what the traveling public looked for with more interest than graces of manner. Many of these old inns remain, in different parts of the county, to remind us of the customs of our fathers and grandfathers. Very few of them, however, are still occupied as public houses. The spacious stables, often capable of accommodating twenty to forty horses, which were a necessary accompaniment to these houses, have in most cases been removed or are in an advanced stage of dilapidation. But whether occupied now as private dwellings or half deserted hotels, they have their own several memories and legends which are faithfully preserved, and many are the noteworthy traditions related by their occupants, of the general character of the house, the arrangement of its accommodations, the entertainment of some distinguished guest, the jokes of some regular patron, the enactment of some hair-stiffening tragedy, the excessive jubilations of some disciple of Bacchus, or the winter night revelries, when the moon was full and "the snow was crusted o'er," of the young blood of generations whose scattered remnant are now in their decay. A few of these old

thoroughfares were "turnpikes," and had toll gates upon them, while others were public roads exacting no toll. But the toll-gate pike, the stage coach, the long line freight wagons and the roadside inn are things of the past.

The main settlements of early date in many of the towns of this county are located on hilltops. This remarkable feature, while it is not without some advantages, has also its disadvantages. Among the latter may be mentioned difficulty of access from neighboring towns or even the surrounding valleys, as well as exposure to the cold winds of winter. On the other hand the magnificent outlook thus afforded to the residents is a "thing of beauty" on a grand scale, and therefore must be a "joy forever." It is said that those who planned these settlements considered such elevated locations more safe from the attacks of Indians than valley sites would be. Certainly an approaching band of Indians could be more readily discovered from the hill-top than from the low ground. But though no such necessity for precaution exists at this time, we think it would be with reluctance that the people would remove their homes from these commanding sites to the valleys below. These villages are of the true New England type. A wide street, which might with more propriety be called a lawn, is lined on either side with comfortable and commodious dwellings, sufficiently separated to give each some sense of retirement. Shade trees that have grown to massive proportions wave in luxuriant stateliness over broad stretches of the greenest and smoothest lawn, that lie on either side of the beaten roadway. In the central part of the village this velvet lined street widens into a sort of public square, of the same green carpeting and under the same canopy of dark foliage. Here one or two churches and sometimes a town hall appear. Looking from the immediate surroundings, which seem too pure and guileless and restful—like a hallowed Sabbath crystalized into living realization—to come into contact with the contaminating arts and usages of trade and business, the prospect as the eye sweeps almost the circle of the horizon, is one which the citizens of many sections of our country would make long pilgrimages to see. The most elaborate description of the distant objects—winding stream, darkening vale, hillside woods, cultivated farms, nestling cottages, factory village and mill, railroad trail through cut or over embankment, moving trains, tell-tale church spires, and numberless other points upon

which the eye rests as we sweep the circle, all of which are half enshrouded in the mist of distance, that distance which "lends enchantment"—the most elaborate description of all these, we say, cannot give the charming and inspiriting impression which this cycloramic view inspires.

Abounding as it does, in some of the most enchanting scenery that picturesque New England can present, the local story and circumstance and character of its people, of former as well as present generations, are no less full of enrapturing interest. The part that Windham has played in affairs concerning the state and nation has ever been an honorable one, and the sons of Windham have inscribed their names high among those whom Columbia delights to honor. Well may those whose nativity is here be proud of their honorable birthright, and those who at later periods have made this county their home may safely feel that they have gained a place in a grander society than that to which men aspired in ancient times when "with a great price" they purchased the liberty of Roman citizenship.

The geological resources of this county are not rich. The valuable minerals which add to the wealth of many sections in the central and western parts of the state are almost entirely wanting here. The surface is of secondary formation, and contains no minerals such as are found in the ranges of trap rock which pass through the central and western parts of the state. It may be that underlying the surface formation at considerable depth there are layers of red sandstone or freestone such as appear on the borders of and underlying the trap ranges along the valley of the Connecticut river. It is not probable that coal formation exists at all beneath the surface of this county. Widely differing from the ridges of western Connecticut, so rich in their varied deposits of building stone, micaceous slate, copper, lead, silver, bayrites, hydraulic lime, cobalt, hematite iron ore, monumental limestone, slate and marble, this whole section is granitic and metamorphic, and is thrown into gentle and sometimes rugged hills which are capable of cultivation to their very summits. Clay, suitable for the manufacture of bricks, is found in different parts of the county, and this is being worked to some extent, especially in the valley of the Quinebaug. In the valleys may be seen evidences of glacial action, and immense drift deposits. One of the most curious examples of this kind may be

seen in the valley just northeast of Hampton hill, where an almost perfect dome of earth an acre or more in extent rests upon the bosom of the deep valley, plainly showing that it was deposited there by the settling of a glacial burden beneath the flood of pre-historic waters, and then its sides were smoothed and rounded by the action of those waters as they receded. This mound is now beautifully occupied as a burial place for the dead. The azoic rocks, which are of granitic or gneissoid character, are with very few and inconsiderable exceptions, buried many feet beneath the surface with these drift deposits.

The general trend of these hills and valleys is north and south, though they are in many places so very irregular as hardly to have any perceptible uniformity in this respect. They are generally composed of sand, varying in fineness, gravel and coarser stones, all of which bear evidences of attrition with water. In some of the valleys a loamy soil appears, and as we have previously stated beds of clay are found in some places. These hills rise to a height of from fifty to three hundred feet, and their western slopes rise gradually from the average level, while their eastern slopes are generally more decidedly abrupt and sometimes precipitous.

CHAPTER II.

THE ABORIGINAL OCCUPANTS.

Algonquin Tribes.—The Mohegans.—The Nipmucks.—The Wabbaquasets.—Naragansett Claims.—The Quinebaugs.—The Pequot Ascendency.—Language and Customs of the Indians.—Their Implements and Arts.—Superstitions.—Indian Allegiance.—The Whetstone Country.—Intertribal Warfare.—Avenging an Insult.—Uncas and Owaneco.—Christian Influence and the “Praying Indians.”—Visit of Eliot and Gookin.—King Philip’s War.—Its Disastrous Effect upon the “Praying Towns.”—Unjust Treatment of the Indians by the English.—Indian Shrewdness.—Close of King Philip’s War.

WHEN our eyes look abroad over the beautiful scenery which has been made still more beautiful by the arts of civilized man, it is but a natural instinct that prompts us to inquire what were the conditions under which civilization was planted here, and what was the social condition which preceded it. We know that but a short quarter millennium has passed since the country now occupied by grand old Windham county was the home and undisputed domain of the unlettered savage. But where he had come from, or how long he had occupied these commanding hills and graceful valleys, or whom he had supplanted, or what had been the vicissitudes of his weal and woe in the dim and distant past, were questions that evoked no response beyond their own echoes. The story of human love and hatred, hope and despair, success and failure, which made up the lives of those who had for unknown centuries occupied these hills and valleys, brooks and lakes, forests and glens, was to the civilized world a sealed book, which nothing but the thunder that shall wake the dead at the last day will ever open. But the students of Indian history have expended great labor and pains upon the subject, and to them we are indebted for the translation of some of the Indian traditions which had well nigh passed into oblivion, from which we may gather material for conjecture amounting to even probability in regard to some of the Indian history of the dark period.

The North American Indians were subdivided into a great many tribes of more or less numerical magnitude. These were scattered over the country with no organized association whatever, and took their names from the natural features of the country where they frequented, whether mountain, lake, river, bay or island. But from similarity in language and some other respects it has been possible to group these fragmentary tribes into some show of order in a few great families or nations of aboriginal people. Of these the Algonquin tribes were numerically the most powerful in America, though others may have been superior in warlike vigor and prowess. All the Indians of New England were branches of this stock, those of the territory occupied by Windham county being generally included in the Mohegan tribe, a subdivision of the Algonquin. The Indian neighbors on the south were the famous and fiercely warlike Pequots, whose sachem held his residence in a large fortress on a commanding hill in what is now Groton, thence making frequent incursions into the surrounding country and retiring to his stronghold whenever he could not safely keep the field. To the honor of the Mohegan tribe it may be said that they from first to last proved friendly to the whites. It is asserted that no other Indian tribe in New England can claim this honor. The Mohegans had gained by conquest a portion of the territory of the Nipmuck tribe, to which the Indians of this locality had belonged, and thus the Mohegan jurisdiction was made to correspond generally with the northern border of Connecticut. The Nipmuck Indians were named from the circumstance that they occupied land remote from the seashore, in "the fresh water country." One of their favorite resorts was the great lake, Chaubunnagunggamaug or Chabanakongkomuch, meaning the "boundary fishing place." This was recognized as the dividing line or bound between the Nipmuck and the Narragansett territory. It lies a few rods north of the present northern boundary line of Windham county, and the Nipmucks at one time claimed land some eighteen or twenty miles south of it.

The northwestern part of the present county was called by the Indians Wabbaquasset, meaning the "mat producing country," on account of the reeds or rushes that grew abundantly in some of the marshes. The natives living there, as was usually the case, took the name of the locality. This Wabbaquasset country was bounded on the east by the Quinebaug river, and

extended as far south as a line running northwesterly from the junction of the Assawaga with the Quinebaug.

The hills of this Wabbaquasset country were then, as now, abundant in fertility and famous for their product of maize. Some of these friendly Indians, it is said, were among the first of the natives of the interior to meet the New England settlers at Boston in commercial transactions. It is related that as early as 1630 a party of Indians from here, with Aquittimaug, one of their number as leader, loaded themselves with sacks of corn and tugged it on their backs all the way to Boston to sell to Winthrop's infant colony, which happened then to be in great need and stood ready to pay a good price therefor.

The Narragansetts claimed the territory east of the Quinebaug, and at times fiercely contested it with the Nipmucks. A quarry of rock which possessed qualities for grinding or sharpening tools lay in this section near the mouth of a branch of the Assawaga which from this circumstance took the name Whetstone brook. This quarry was called Mahumsqueeg, or Mahmun-squeeg, which name soon became applied to a considerable stretch of land north and south on the east side of the Quinebaug, the limits of course being altogether indefinite.

On the south of Wabbaquasset and Mahmun-squeeg lay the Quinebaug country, the principal part of which was the territory now occupied by Plainfield and Canterbury. To the west of this and covering the southwest part of the county as well as parts of neighboring divisions, was an indefinite tract of country bearing the name Mamasqueeg.

Some twenty years or more before the settlement of Connecticut by white men the Pequots had subdued the Quinebaugs and Wabbaquassets and assumed jurisdiction over all the territory now occupied by Windham county, supplanting here both the Nipmucks and the Narragansetts. But their reign was to be a short one. They in turn were soon supplanted by the superior forces of English civilization.

Of the Indians but little is known. They were subject clans of little spirit or distinctive character. They were few in numbers and scattered in location of their favorite residences. The most favorable localities were occupied by a few families while large sections were left vacant and desolate. Their dwellings were poor, their weapons and utensils rude and scanty. They raised corn and beans and made baskets and mats. A few rude

forts were maintained at different places. They were evidently on the decline.

But little has been preserved of their language or their customs. They lived by hunting the wild game upon the land and fishing from the lakes and cultivating in a rude way the soil. As none of the Indians of the country knew anything of the art of working iron or any of the metallic ores, for making implements of any kind, they were compelled to supply this want with sharp stones, shells, claws of birds and wild beasts, pieces of bones and other things of that kind whenever they wished to make hatchets, knives and such instruments. These early implements were at once abandoned as soon as the Europeans came and brought them metal instruments. These were at once eagerly sought by the Indians in exchange for skins, corn, the flesh of animals or whatever nature had placed at their disposal that was of value to the whites.

The primitive hatchets were made of stone, and were nothing more than clumsy wedges about six inches long and of proportionate width. For a handle a stick was split at one end and the stone inserted in the cleft, where it was firmly tied. A groove was generally made around the hatchet to receive the jaws of the split stick. Some were not handled at all, but were held in the hand while being used. Thongs made of sinews of animals, strips of skin or perhaps twisted or braided shreds of grass or bark were used in the place of cords or ropes to tie with. The hatchets were mostly made of a hard kind of rock stone, but some were made of a fine, hard, apyrous stone.

One of the most important uses which the hatchet served was for girdling trees. The object in this was to prepare ground for maize fields. Trees thus treated would soon die, and then, if small trees, they were pulled out, root and branches, but if too large for that they were not materially in the way so long as they were dead so that their roots drew no sustenance from the ground, and their branches, bearing no leaves, could offer no shade to the growing corn. In this way they cleared the land they used for cultivation, which was done by the use of sharp sticks, with which the ground was rudely and imperfectly torn up. For the purposes of knives they used sharp pieces of flint or quartz or some other kind of hard stone, and sometimes sharpened shells or pieces of bone.

Narrow, angulated pieces of stone were fastened to the ends of their arrows so as to form sharpened points. These stones were inserted in a cleft in the end of their arrows and firmly bound in place with fine cords. They were commonly made of pieces of flint or quartz, but sometimes other hard stones were used, and sometimes these were substituted by the bones of animals or the claws of birds and beasts.

For pounding maize they generally used stone pestles, which were about a foot long and as thick as a man's arm. Sometimes wooden pestles were used. Their mortars were made of the stumps or butts of trees, the end being hollowed out by means of fire. The pounded maize was a common article of food with them. The Indians were astonished beyond measure when they beheld the mills erected by the Europeans for grinding corn or other grains. When they saw the first windmills they came in numbers, some of them long distances, to view the wonder, and it is said they would sit for days together observing the mill at its work. They were slow to believe that it was driven by the wind. Such an assertion was nonsense to them. For a long time they held the opinion that the mill was driven by the spirits who lived within it. With something of the same incredulity they witnessed the first water mills, but as water is a more tangible element than wind they were more ready to admit its physical effect in driving the mill.

The old boilers or kettles of the Indians were made either of clay or of different kinds of pot-stone (*Lapisollaris*). The former consisted of a dark clay mixed with grains of white sand or quartz and burnt in the fire. Many of these kettles had two holes near the upper edge on opposite sides, through which a stick could be passed, by means of which the kettle was hung over the fire. They seldom had feet and were never glazed either outside or inside. Many of the stones used in the manufacture of the implements spoken of were not found in this locality but were brought hither from some other part of the country, either in the raw material or in the manufactured form, some of them perhaps from quite remote localities.

The old tobacco pipes were also made of clay or pot-stone, or serpentine stone. The first were shaped like our common pipes of that material, though they were of much coarser texture and not so well made. The stem was thick and short, often not more than an inch long, though sometimes as long as a finger.

Their color resembled that of our clay pipes that have been used for a long time. Some of the pipes that were made of pot-stone were well made. Still another kind of tobacco pipe was made of a very fine, red pot-stone or a kind of serpentine marble. These were formed with great ingenuity, were very scarce, and were almost never used by any others than the chiefs. The stone of which these were formed was brought from a long distance and was very scarce. Pipes of this material were valued by the Indians higher than the same bulk of silver. The celebrated "pipe of peace" was made of this kind of stone.

After the overthrow of the Pequots their lands, according to custom, lapsed to their conquerors. Uncas, having joined the English against the Pequot chieftain Sassacus, now claimed his land on the ground of relationship, and to his claim the timid Wabbaquassets quite readily yielded, "and paid him homage and obligations and yearly tribute of white deer skins, bear skins and black wolf skins." With the Quinebaugs Uncas was not so successful. His right to their allegiance was disputed by the Narragansetts, and for many years the land was in contention, Uncas extorting tribute when he could, and the Quinebaugs yielding homage to whichever power happened for the time being to be in the ascendancy. For a time "they had no resident sachem and went as they pleased." Afterward they consented to receive three renegade Narragansetts whom Uncas allowed to dwell among and exercise authority over them. These were Allumps (*alias* Hyems), Massashowett and Aguntus. They were wild, ambitious and quarrelsome. They built a fort at Egunk hill, another near Greenwich Path, and a third at Wanungatuck hill, where they were compelled to dwell a whole year for fear of the Narragansetts.

The Whetstone country was also in conflict. Uncas claimed that his northern bound extended to the quarry, and his followers were accustomed to resort thither for whetstones, but its Nipmuck inhabitants "turned off to the Narragansetts." Nemo and Azzogut, who built a fort at Acquiunk, a point at the junction of the Quinebaug and Assawaga rivers, now in Danielsonville, "carried presents sometimes to Uncas, sometimes to Pessacus." The latter was at a time sachem of the Narragansetts, being the successor of Miantonomi. This fort was eleven rods fifteen inches in circumference, four or five feet in height, and occupied by four families. Tradition also marks this spot as an aboriginal

battle field, the scene of the only Indian rencontre that is reported with any fair degree of distinctness.

The tragedy referred to appears to have developed on this wise. The Narragansetts invited their Nipmuck tributaries to visit them at the shore and partake of a feast of shell-fish. The Nipmucks later returned the civility by inviting the former to a banquet of lamprey eels. The shell-fish were greatly relished by the Nipmucks but the eels, for lack of dressing, were distasteful to the Narragansetts. Glum looks and untasted food roused the ire of the Nipmucks. Taunts and retorts were soon followed by blows and developed into a free fight, in which the visitors, being unarmed, suffered most disastrous consequences. With such terrible vengeance did the Nipmucks fall upon them that only two of their number escaped to carry home the news of the massacre.

The Narragansetts now determined to avenge the blood of their fallen comrades. A body of warriors was at once dispatched to the land of the Nipmucks, where they found them intrenched at Acquiunk, on the east of the Quinebaug. Unable to cross the stream that lay between them and their foes they threw up embankments and for three days waged war across the stream. Many were slain on both sides, but the Nipmucks were again triumphant and forced their assailants to retire with loss, leaving their dead on the field. The bodies of the slain Nipmucks were buried in deep pits on the battle ground, which has ever since been known as the Indian Burying Ground. Numerous bones and trinkets found on that spot give some credulity to this legend, which aged Indians took great delight in relating to the first settlers of Killingly.

During the years of settlement of the neighboring country, and while attempts were occasionally being made by the strange white people to establish themselves in possession of some of this land, and while sanguinary conflicts were depleting the numbers of the neighboring tribes, the Wabbaquassets patiently submitted to the authority of Uncas, and when his oldest son, Owaneco, was grown up, received him as their sachem, "their own chief men ruling in his absence." In 1670 a new light dawned upon them. The influence of the faithful Indian apostle, Eliot, reached this benighted region. Young Indians trained at Natick went into the Nipmuck wilderness and gathered the natives into "new praying towns" and churches. Of seven

churches gathered three were in the territory now covered by Windham county. These were Myanexet or Manexet, now the northern part of Woodstock, Quinnatisset, now Thompson, and Wabbaquasset, now the southeastern part of Woodstock.

Joseph and Sampson, only sons of Petavit, sachem of Haman-nesset, now Grafton, came as Christian missionaries to Wabbaquasset, and for four years labored and preached faithfully throughout this region. The simple and tractable Wabbaquassets hearkened willingly unto the gospel thus preached, and many were persuaded to unite in church estate and assume some of the habits of civilization.

They observed the Sabbath, they cultivated their lands, they gathered into villages. The largest village, comprising some thirty families, was called Wabbaquasset. Its locality has not been exactly identified, but it is known to be included in the present town of Woodstock, either on Woodstock hill or in its vicinity. The teacher Sampson had his residence here, and under his direction wigwams were built, the like of which were seen in no other part of the country. Of the magnitude or exact location of the settlement of Myanexet we have still less knowledge. It is said to have been upon the west side of the Quinebaug river in a very fertile country, and comprised about one hundred souls. The third settlement, Quinnatisset, is supposed to have been on Thompson hill and to have been about equal in size with the second. These villages and their inhabitants were under the care and guidance of the faithful Sampson, who held religious services statedly, and endeavored to civilize and elevate them.

In September, 1674, Major Daniel Gookin, who had been appointed by the general court of Massachusetts as a magistrate over the Praying Indians, with power to hold courts and discharge other similar functions, visited these villages on this errand. He was accompanied by Mr. Eliot and several others, who were deeply interested in witnessing the effects of civilization and Christianity upon the Indians. The object of the visit was to confirm the churches, settle teachers over them and to establish civil government. Religious services were held, Mr. Eliot preaching in the Indian tongue. On September 15th they reached Myanexet, where John Moqua was appropriately installed as their minister. Difficulties being in the way they did not visit Quinnatisset, but appointed a young man of Natick,

called Daniel, to be their minister, the appointment being acceptable to the people there.

The party arrived at Wabbaquasset on the evening of the 15th. Here they found a good soil and a ripening crop of corn which would yield not less than forty bushels to the acre. A spacious wigwam, about sixty feet long and twenty wide, was the residence of the sachem, who was inclined to religion and had the meetings on Sabbath days at his house. The sachem was absent but his squaw admitted them and hospitably entertained them. The people were called together, among them Sampson, their teacher, and a good part of the night was spent in religious exercises and conference. One grim Indian alone sat mute and took no part in what was passing. At length, after a great space, he arose and spoke, declaring himself a messenger from Uncas, sachem of the Mohegans, who challenged right to and dominion over this people of Wabbaquasset. "Uncas," said he, "is not well pleased that the English should pass over Mohegan river [Quinebaug] to call his Indians to pray to God."

The timid Wabbaquassetts quailed at this lofty message from their sovereign master, but Mr. Eliot answered calmly, "that it was his work to call upon men everywhere to repent and embrace the Gospel, but he did not meddle with civil right or jurisdiction." Gookin, with the authority befitting his office as magistrate, then declared unto him and desired him to inform Uncas "that Wabbaquasset was within the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, and that the government of that people did belong to them, and they look upon themselves concerned to promote the good of all people within their limits, especially if they embrace Christianity—yet it was not intended to abridge the Indian sachems of their just and ancient rights over the Indians in respect of paying tribute or any other dues, but the main design of the English was to bring them to the good knowledge of God in Christ, and to suppress among them their sins of drunkenness, idolatry, powwowing and witchcraft. As for the English, they had taken no tribute from them, nor taxed them with anything of that kind." At this the meeting ended and no more was heard of the messenger from Uncas.

On the day following, September 16th, 1674, religious services were held at which the people of this and the other two villages were present, after which Major Gookin held a court and established civil government among them. Sampson, who was spoken

of as "an active and ingenious person, who spake good English and read well," was approved as teacher among them, and Black James was appointed constable. Each was inducted into the office to which he was appointed with an appropriate charge to be diligent and faithful in their places, and the people were exhorted to yield them proper obedience in the Gospel of Christ. He then published a warrant or order, empowering the constable to suppress drunkenness and Sabbath breaking, and especially powwowing and idolatry, and after giving due warning, to apprehend all delinquents and bring them before authority to answer for their misdeeds. For offenses of lesser magnitude he was to bring them before Wattasa Companum of Hassanamesset, "a grave and pious man of the chief sachem's blood,"—but for serious offenses like idolatry and powwowing to bring them before the magistrate Gookin himself.

Mr. Eliot, Major Gookin and their party returned the same day, being well pleased with the success of the efforts which had been made to civilize and Christianize the Indians. Seventy families in Windham territory had been brought under the influence of these efforts and the results were encouraging to the expectation that from this fair beginning light would shine into all the dark region around them.

These hopeful prospects were soon blighted. The Narragansett (King Philip's) war broke out in the following summer and swept away at once the result of years of missionary labor. The villages were deserted, the churches fell to pieces and the Praying Indians relapsed into savages. The Nipmucks east of the Quinebaug joined the Narragansetts, and the fearful Wabbaquassets left their pleasant villages and planting fields and threw themselves under the protection of Uncas at Mohegan. Early in August, 1675, a company of Providence men, under Captain Nathaniel Thomas, went out in pursuit of Philip, who had just effected his escape to the Nipmuck country, and on the night of August 3d, reached the second fort in that country, "called by the Indians Wapososhequash" (Wabbaquasset). This was on a hill a mile or two south of what is now Woodstock hill. Captain Thomas reports "a very good inland country, well watered with rivers and brooks, special good land, great quantities of special good corn and beans, and stately wigwams as I never saw the like; but not one Indian to be seen." The Wabbaquassets were then serving with the Mohegans, and aided in

various forays and expeditions, bringing in on one occasion over a hundred of Philip's men, so that each warrior, at the close of the campaign of 1675, was rewarded for his services by "a payre of breechis" from the Connecticut government.

No battle or skirmish is reported during the war as occurring within the present Windham county territory, but it was repeatedly traversed by scouting parties, and companies of soldiers were sent at different times to "gather all the corne and secure all the swine that could be found therein." In June, 1676, Major Talcot went out from Norwich on an expedition through the Nipmuck country with 240 English soldiers and 200 Indian warriors. They marched first to Egunk, where they hoped to salute the enemy, and thence to Wabbaquasset, scouring the woods through this long tract, but found the country everywhere deserted. At Wabbaquasset they found a fort and about forty acres of corn growing, but no enemy. The village, with its "stately wigwams," had perhaps been previously destroyed. They demolished the fort, destroyed the corn, and then proceeded to Chaubongagum, where they killed and captured fifty-two of the enemy.

In this connection it will be of interest to quote the following paragraphs from an article by Reverend Martin Moore in the *American Quarterly Register* for February, 1843. Speaking of the Praying Indians in both Massachusetts and Connecticut, he says:

"Philip's war produced a disastrous effect upon these praying towns. He formed a confederacy among the natives for the purpose of exterminating the English. He used every possible art to draw the Praying Indians into this league. The English on the other hand feared that they would turn traitors. The praying Indians stood between two fires. Both parties needed their assistance, and neither of them dared trust them. The number of praying Indians was about 3,000. The whole number of English was about 20,000. Philip's confederacy probably numbered less. It was quite an object with both parties, who were nearly balanced, to secure the praying Indians. The English were so fearful of them that at the commencement of the contest they dared not take them to the war. The general court finally removed them to Deer island in Boston harbor. In December, 1675, General Gookin and Mr. Eliot visited them. 'I observed in all my visit to them,' says Gookin, 'that they carried themselves patiently, humbly and piously, without mur-

muring or complaining against the English for their sufferings (which were not few), for they chiefly lived upon clams and shell-fish that they digged out of the sand at low water. The island was bleak and cold; their wigwams were poor and mean; their clothes few and thin. Some little corn they had of their own which the court ordered to be fetched from their plantations, and conveyed to them by little and little; also a boat and man was appointed to look after them. I may say in the words of truth that there appeared much of practical Christianity in this time of their trial.' One of their number thus bewailed his condition to Mr. Eliot: 'Oh, sir,' said he, 'I am greatly distressed this day on every side; the English have taken away some of my estate, my corn, my cattle, my plow, cart, chain and other goods. The enemy Indians have taken part of what I had; and the wicked Indians mock and scoff at me, saying, "now what is come of your praying to God?" The English also censure me and say I am a hypocrite. In this distress I have nowhere to look but up to God in the heavens to help me. Now my dear wife and eldest son (through the English threatening) run away, and I fear will perish in the woods for want of food; also my aged mother is lost, and all this doth aggravate my grief. Yet I desire to look up to God in Christ Jesus, in whom alone is help.' Being asked whether he had not assisted the enemy in their wars when he was amongst them, he answered, 'I never joined with them against the English. Indeed they often solicited me, but I utterly denied and refused them. I thought within myself, it is better to die than fight against the church of Christ.' After the war had raged for a while the minds of the English were softened toward them. They let them go forth to the war under the command of English officers. General Gookin says that they took and destroyed not less than four hundred of Philip's men."

"Tradition has handed down to us some anecdotes respecting individuals, which exhibit the shrewdness of the Indian character. Waban, at whose wigwam at Nonantum Mr. Eliot began to preach, was commissioned as a justice of the peace. Instead of having a long warrant, needlessly multiplying words, as legal instruments do at the present day, he was accustomed to issue his precepts in a very laconic form. When he directed his warrant to a constable, he simply wrote: 'Quick you catch um, fast you hold um, and bring um before me, Justice Waban.' On an-

other occasion a young justice asked him what he should do with Indians after they had had a drunken fight, and entered a complaint against any of their number? His reply was, 'Whip um plaintiff, whip um defendant and whip um witnesses.' "

The death of Philip in August, 1676, closed this bloody and destructive war. The Nipmucks found themselves almost annihilated. "I went to Connecticut," said Sagamore Sam of Nashaway, "about the captives there and found the English had destroyed those Indians, and when I came home we were also destroyed." The grave and pious Wattasa Companum, enticed away by Philip's men, was executed in Boston. Gookin was the only magistrate who opposed the people in their rage against the wretched natives. The few remaining Nipmucks found a refuge with some distant tribes, the Wabbaquassets remaining with Uncas at Mohegan. The aboriginal inhabitants of the future Windham county were destroyed or scattered, and their territory opened to English settlement and occupation.

CHAPTER III.

SETTLEMENT.

First Attempts at Settlement.—The Inter-Colonial Route.—Purchase of Land by John Winthrop.—Indian Title and Subsequent Confirmation.—Dispute as to Colonial Jurisdiction.—Indian Claims Revived.—Land in the Market.—Influx of Speculators.—First Lands Laid Out.—Boundary Disputes with Massachusetts.—Claims of Uncas to the Wabbaquasset Country.—Land on the Quinebaug Sold.—Owaneco Appoints James Fitch his Attorney or Guardian.—Makes over to him Mohegan and Wabbaquasset Lands.—Fitch Sells Land to Roxbury.—Joshua Bequeaths Land to Sixteen Norwich Gentlemen.—Agreement of the Legatees.—Windham Settlements Made.—Depression of Improvements under Andros.—Slow Progress of Settlement.—Religious and Social Affairs.—Settlement of the Disputed Section in the Southeast Part of the County.—Some of the Early Settlers.—Early Days of the Quinebaug Country.—Settlement in the Whetstone Country and the Volunteer's Land.

IN the early commerce between the colonies of Massachusetts and Connecticut a popular route over the land was through the region now covered by Windham county. Remote from the sea shore, and possessing no navigable lakes or rivers, it was perfectly reasonable that this territory should be for a time overlooked, or rather that it should be passed by as a goodly land for the home-seekers in a new world to locate upon. Accessibility by water was to the first settlers an almost absolutely essential feature in any site chosen by them for the planting of a little colony. But we may well imagine that the fertile valleys and hills of this beautiful region, and the picturesque attractions of the future Windham did not long remain unnoticed. The land became known to the English about the year 1635. When, about that time, the early colonists began to traverse the "hideous and trackless wilderness," on the way from Massachusetts to the Connecticut river, tradition tells us their encampment for the night was on Pine hill in Ashford. A rude track, called the Connecticut Path, obliquely crossing the Wabbaquasset country, became the main thoroughfare of travel between the two colonies. Hundreds of families toiled over it to new homes

in the wilderness. The fathers of Hartford and New Haven, ministers and governors, captains and commissioners, government officials and land speculators, crossed and recrossed over it. Civilization passed to regions beyond but made no abiding place here for more than half a century.

One of the most indefatigable land speculators of that period was Mr. John Winthrop. In Massachusetts, in Rhode Island, in Connecticut and upon Long Island his tracks may be seen, as, first in one locality and then in another, he obtained title more or less perfect to the wild lands occupied by the Indians. Here in the territory now occupied by Windham county he was the first Englishman to receive from the natives a deed for an indefinite quantity of land. This conveyance bears date November 2d, 1653, and purports to have been given by James, sachem of Quinebaug, and confirmed by Massashowitt, his brother, and also to have been made with the consent, "full and free," of Aguntus, Pumquanon, Massitiarno, his brother, and Moas, "and all the rest of the chief men of these parts." The confirmation by others than James was made on the 25th of the same month, the writings being witnessed by Richard Smith, Samuel Smith, John Gallop, James Avery and William Weloma. The considerations named were "great friendship formerly from Mr. Winthrop, sometime governor of Massachusetts," the father of the grantee, and the fact that the latter had erected a saw mill at Pequot, which the grantors consider as a great prospective means for developing the forest resources of the country. The description of land conveyed was as follows: "the bounds thereof to be from the present plot of the Indians' planting ground at Quinebaug, where James, his fort is, on a hill at the said Pautuxett, and so down towards Shautuxkett so farr as the right of the said James doth reach or any of his men; so farr on both sides the river as ye right of ye said James doth reach or any of his men, with all the swamps of cedar, pine, spruce or any other timber and wood whatever." The name Pautuxett, a general name for "falls," here refers to the falls at Acquiunk.

In the transactions connected with this conveyance we are told a Pequot Indian, well known by the name of Robin Cassaminon, acted as interpreter. One of the Indians named, Aguntus, was dissatisfied with the transaction and accused James, also named Hyems, of "selling land that was not his," and compelled him, in the presence of Winthrop, to pull off a coat which

he had received in payment. Aguntus's dissatisfied spirit, however, was appeased by the presentation of "a roll of trucking-cloth, two rolls of red cotton, wampum, stockings, tobacco-pipes and tobacco." According to Trumbull there was a small number of white families on the lands at the time of the purchase, but no trace of them has been recovered. An Englishman had attempted to settle in Quinebaug about the year 1650, but was driven off by the threat of Hyems, "to bury him alive unless he went away.

Governor Winthrop took great pains to secure legal confirmation of this purchase. The Narragansetts were precluded from prosecuting their ancient claim to this territory by an especial clause in the agreement made by himself and John Clarke as agents for Connecticut and Rhode Island, concerning the dividing line between their respective governments, which provided that "if any part of that purchase at Quinebaug doth lie along upon the east side of that river that goeth down by New London, within six miles of the said river, then it shall wholly belong to Connecticut Colony, as well as the rest which lieth on the western side of the aforesaid river." The general court of Connecticut in October, 1671, allowed Governor Winthrop his Indian purchase at Quinebaug, and gave him liberty to erect thereon a plantation, but none appears ever to have been attempted under this permission.

As a result of its border location the territory of Windham was long in dispute as to jurisdiction. The northern part was for a long time held by Massachusetts. The patent of Connecticut allowed her territory to extend northward to the head of Narragansett river, but the prior grant to Massachusetts restricted it to the southern bound of the Bay Colony, "three miles south of every part of Charles River." In 1642 the southern boundary line was run out from a point on Wrentham Plain, which was settled upon as being three miles south of Charles river, to a point in Windsor, Connecticut, which was really ten or twelve miles farther south than the starting point. This was the famous Woodward and Saffery's line, and it was maintained by Massachusetts as her southern boundary for seventy years, even against the repeated remonstrances of Connecticut. By this deflection the land now included in Woodstock and Thompson belonged to Massachusetts, and as a part of the vacant Nipmuck country awaited the action of that colony in its disposal, which,

on account of being weakened by the Indian war, was delayed for several years until she could recover sufficient pioneering vigor to take hold of it.

After the scenes of King Philip's war had closed and quiet and confidence were gradually restored, many of the Indians, recovering from the shock of defeat, gathered again around their old homes and laid claim to various sections. To adjust these claims the general court of Massachusetts in May, 1681, appointed William Stoughton and Joseph Dudley, two men of prominence in public affairs there, to investigate the basis of Indian claims in the Nipmuck country. A hearing was accordingly held by them in June, and Mr. John Eliot acted as interpreter on that occasion. Black James, the former constable at Chaubongagum, now appeared as claimant for the south part of the Nipmuck country. The commissioners found the Indians "willing enough to make claim to the whole country, but litigious and doubtful among themselves." They then adjourned to September, in the meantime hoping that some mutual agreement might be arrived at. Then they spent a week exploring the country, attended by the principal claimants. They reported Black James' claim as being "capable of good settlement, if not too scant of meadow, though uncertain what will fall within our bounds if our line be to be questioned." They further recommended that some compensation be made to the claimants and that the latter surrender all their lands to the government and company of Massachusetts. This advice was accepted and Stoughton and Dudley were authorized to negotiate with the claimants and enter into an agreement with them upon the best terms obtainable. As a result of these negotiations the whole Nipmuck country from the northern part of Massachusetts to Nashaway, at the junction of the Quinebaug and French rivers in Connecticut, a tract fifty miles long by twenty wide, was, on the 10th of February, 1682, made over to the Massachusetts government for the sum of fifty pounds. Black James received, for himself and some forty followers, twenty pounds in money and a reservation of land five miles square.

This Indian reservation was laid out in two tracts of land, one on the east of the Quinebaug at Myanexet, now included in the towns of Dudley, Webster and Thompson; the other at Quinnatisset, now the south part of Thompson. Five thousand acres at Quinnatisset and a large tract at Myanexet, being a

moiety or full half of the whole reservation, were immediately conveyed to Stoughton and Dudley for the sum of ten pounds. A deed for this was given by Black James and his associates, the native proprietors, November 10th, 1682. These commissioners, Stoughton and Dudley, thus became personally the first white proprietors of Windham's share of the Nipmuck country. Dudley retained for a long time his fine farm on the Quinebaug. The Quinnatisset land was soon subdivided to other purchasers.

Such a large tract of country being thrown into the market at once incited a rage for land speculation, and capitalists hastened to secure possession of favorable localities. June 18th, 1683, Joseph Dudley, for two hundred and fifty pounds, conveyed to Thomas Freak, of Hamington, Wells county, England, two thousand acres of forest land in the Nipmuck country, part of a greater quantity purchased of Black James. Two thousand acres in upland and meadow at Quinnatisset were also made over by Stoughton to Robert Thompson of North Newington, Middlesex, England, for two hundred pounds, English money. This Thompson was a very noted person, president of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and a devoted friend of the colonies. The land was laid out by John Gore, of Roxbury, under the supervision of Colonel William Dudley, in June, 1684. This land remained in the family of Thompson for upwards of a hundred years, and the town which subsequently included it was named in his honor. Freak's farm included the site of the present village of Thompson. The line dividing it from Thompson's ran through an old Indian fort on a hill a mile eastward. Five hundred acres south of Freak's were laid out to Gore, and five hundred on the north to Benjamin Gambling, of Roxbury, an assistant surveyor.

These Quinnatisset tracts were not only the first lands laid out in the northern part of Windham, but are invested with additional interest by their connection with the disputed southern boundary of Massachusetts. Woodward and Saffery's line crossed the Quinebaug at its junction with the French river, and thence ran northeasterly to Rhode Island and Wrentham. It was intended to make this line the south bound of the Quinnatisset farms, but by an unfortunate blunder the greater part of Thompson's land and an angle of Gore's fell south of it, intruding upon what even Massachusetts acknowledged as Connecticut territory—an

intrusion which gave rise to much controversy and confusion. No attempt was made by their owners to occupy or cultivate these lands.

A tract of twelve hundred acres lying between the Quinebaug and French rivers was sold by Nanasogegog, of Nipmuck, with the consent of Black James, to Jonathan Curtis, Thomas Dudley, Samuel Rice and others, in 1684; but other claimants apparently secured it. John Collins and John Cotton had each of them five hundred acres granted to them by the Massachusetts government, laid out on the east side of the Quinebaug in Quinnatisset. On the south of Lake Chaubongagum a tract of one thousand acres was granted to the children of Mr. William Whiting, sometime of Hartford.

In the adjustment of Indian claims Uncas assumed the right to a large share of eastern Connecticut. Massachusetts yielded to his claim the whole Wabbaquasset country. The tract confirmed to him as the hereditary territory of the Mohegans was bounded on the north by a line running from Mahmunsook on Whetstone brook to the junction of the Quinebaug and Assawaga at Acquiunk, thence westward to the Willimantic and far beyond it. The Wabbaquasset country was held by him as a Pequot conquest. It extended from the Mohegan north bound far into Massachusetts, and westward from the Quinebaug to a line running through the "great pond Snipsic," now in Tolland. This large tract was given by Uncas to his second son, Owaneco, while the land between the Appaquage and Willimantic rivers was assigned by him to his third son, Atanawahood or Joshua, sachem of the Western Niantics. The latter died in May, 1676, bequeathing the land between the Willimantic and Appaquage to Captain John Mason and fifteen other men "in trust for a plantation." His estate was settled according to the terms of his will, the general assembly of Connecticut allowing the Norwich legatees the lands bequeathed to them at Appaquage, which, as soon as practicable, was incorporated as the township of Windham.

In the year 1679 some of the Mohegan Indians in a drunken carousal set fire to the New London county prison and destroyed it. The county court in September of that year ordered that Uncas and Owaneco should render satisfaction for the damage by surrendering their right to six hundred acres of land. The general court at Hartford in October confirmed this judgment

and ordered the county treasurer, James Fitch, Jr., to dispose of the land. A tract of six hundred acres was accordingly selected lying on both sides of the Quinebaug, extending from Wananagatuck on the north to a brook, now known as Rowland's brook, on the south. This was included in Winthrop's purchase of 1653. It was sold for forty pounds to John, Solomon and Daniel Tracy and Richard Bushnell, the survey being made in June, 1680. A farm south of John Tracy's division, adjoining the river island, Peagscomsueck, which gave its name to this section of the Quinebaug valley, was given to James Fitch by Owaneco, and laid out during the summer of the same year.

Notwithstanding the general court had allowed Governor John Winthrop his purchase at Quinebaug, some nine years before, yet in May, 1680, that body ordered that "if Uncas hath right to any land about Quinebaug he may make it out and dispose of it to his son Owaneco and such gentlemen as he shall see cause. Under this sanction Owaneco assumed the right to the whole Quinebaug country as well as Wabbaquasset. Swarms of greedy land hunters now assailed the Mohegan chieftain, eager to obtain possession of these lands upon any pretext. Their chief friends and patrons were the sons of Major John Mason, the renowned conqueror of the Pequots, Mr. Fitch, the excellent minister of Norwich, and James Fitch, his son.

Uncas was now in the years of his decay and Owaneco was drunken and incapable of managing business affairs with prudence and skill. The latter, however, was induced to consent to place his land claims in the hands of the younger James Fitch, to act for him as a sort of guardian, and accordingly gave Fitch a writing in effect a power of attorney, to dispose of all his lands and meadows upon the Quinebaug river, according to his discretion. This was done December 22d, 1680. By a formal deed of conveyance which was further confirmed by the general court of Connecticut, Owaneco, in 1684, made over to Captain James Fitch also the whole Wabbaquasset country. The Mohegan and Wabbaquasset lands were then for the first time surveyed and bounded, and their bounds confirmed by the assembly. The whole of the territory now embraced in Windham county, with the exception of two tracts, was thus placed in the hands of one individual, who was destined to play a very prominent part in its early history and subsequent development. The two excepted tracts above referred to were that of Joshua's, between the Willi-

mantic and Appaquake rivers, and a strip east of the Quinebaug which had been divided between the colonies of Massachusetts and Connecticut.

James Fitch, at first captain, and afterward known as major, was a man of great energy, shrewdness and business capacity. As soon as he gained possession of this land he threw it into the market. Personal interest, as well as the good of the public, led him to seek to dispose of these vast tracts to good and substantial settlers—to colonies and towns rather than to individuals and speculators. The northern part of the Wabbaquasset tract was under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, and to a Massachusetts company Fitch sold his first township. This was the town of Roxbury, which had grown so large that it was considered advisable to send out some of its members to plant a new town somewhere in the wilderness. Accordingly, after extended deliberations and due consideration of the preliminary measures, a tract about seven miles square was purchased, and about the first of April, 1686, thirteen pioneers began to break up the ground and prepare for the improvement of New Roxbury, afterward Woodstock. The further particulars in regard to this tract will be given in connection with the history of Woodstock in another part of this work.

Four months previous to the division and distribution of land for actual settlement in the upper end of Windham county, steps in a similar direction were being taken in the lower end of the territory. The fact that land here had been confirmed in title to Joshua, the third son of Uncas, has already been alluded to. By bequest this tract was granted to sixteen gentlemen of Norwich and adjoining towns. Their names were Captain John Mason, Lieutenant Samuel Mason, Lieutenant Daniel Mason, Reverend James Fitch, Captain James Fitch, John Birchard, Thomas Tracy, Thomas Adgate, Lieutenant Thomas Leffingwell, John Olmstead, Simon Huntington, William Hide, William Backus, Hugh Calkins, Captain George Denison and Daniel Wetherell.

Joshua's will, granting the very extensive tract, which will be presently described, was allowed and established by the general court of Connecticut in May, 1678, and the persons named were allowed to possess all of Joshua's rights in the land, provided they should comply with the conditions therein named. Though the legality of Joshua's title to various other tracts conveyed by

this will occasioned much subsequent controversy and litigation, the Norwich legatees secured their portion with little difficulty and no apparent opposition. Robin Cassasinamon—governor of the surviving Pequots—was commissioned by Uncas to show these men the bounds of their tract, and soon after its confirmation by the general court he set out with a party of the legatees and a surveyor by the name of Bushnell into the wilderness north of Norwich. Passing through Mamosqueage, a strip north of Norwich reserved for Joshua's children, they followed an old Indian trail eight miles northward, the trail being known in those days as the Nipmuck Path, to a flag meadow which was called Appaquage. Here their bounds were to begin. After encamping for the night, the next morning they struck through the woods ten miles to the Willimantic river, where they spent the second night. Thence they followed Robin down the Willimantic to Mamosqueage. Soon after this preliminary exploration Bushnell and Joseph Huntington were sent by the legatees "to measure down eight miles from Appaquage, by the said Nipmuck Path," which they did, "and marked a white oak at the end of said eight miles, west side of path." The lines of the whole tract were soon afterward run by Simon Huntington, Thomas Leffingwell, Jr., and Richard Bushnell, under the direction of Uncas. In October, 1681, Captain Robert Chapman, Captain James Fitch and Thomas Buckingham were appointed administrators of Joshua's estate, and they, during the following winter conveyed according to the terms of the will, "a tract of land lying to the west of Appaquage, east from Willimantic River, south from Appaquage Pond, eight miles broad," to the legatees whose names have already been given.

The recipients of this princely gift were all gentlemen of high character and standing. Samuel and Daniel Mason resided in Stonington, Mr. Wetherell in New London, and the others in Norwich. The following agreement was signed by the legatees February 17th, 1682:

"I. God willing, plantation work shall be carried on and a town settled within the space of four years, that is to say, we, after the above-mentioned time is expired, will bear all such public charges according to our just proportion for the carrying on plantation work.

"II. Those that find they are not in a capacity to manage the several allotments for the carrying on of the true intendment

and end of a plantation shall resign up their allotments to such wholesome inhabitants as the said company shall see reason to admit, upon reasonable and moderate terms.

“III. We having received the land, and upon a view judge that it will afford an allotment for every thousand acres, according to the distribution made by Uncas (who was appointed by the deceased son to act), with some other allotments for public uses in the several divisions, first, second, and third of the land bequeathed to us.

“IV. It is agreed that the allotments be laid out in an equal manner, every one contenting himself with the place where God by his providence shall determine, by a lot drawn for that end, and the drawing of one lot shall answer for the home-lot and for the first division of upland and meadow. It is also agreed that Simon Huntington, William Backus, John Post and John Birchard shall lay out the same according to the order and manner above specified.”

Three years passed without any material progress being made toward the settlement of this large tract. In February, 1685, it was agreed to make settlements in three different places, for the convenience of lands and meadows. By the following spring the surveys and divisions were completed and the land was ready for distribution. Beginning at Appaquage—“a flaggy meadow,”—now at or near the southeast corner of Eastford, the boundary line of the tract ran south eight miles, large measure, on the west side of Nipmuck Path; thence due west to the Shetucket, running a little south of the present site of Windham Green; thence eight miles northwest, up the Shetucket and Willimantic, and thence ten miles east to Appaquage. A large part of the present territory of Windham, Mansfield, Chaplin, Hampton and Scotland townships was comprised in this royal gift, which was laid out in forty-eight shares, each containing a thousand acres. Each share included a home-lot in one of the three villages planned, and portions of meadow, pasture and upland in different localities. The three village sites selected were the Hither-place or Southeast Quarter, now Old Windham village; the Ponde-place, at Naubesatuck, now Mansfield Centre; and the valley of the Willimantic, near the site of the present borough of that name. Fifteen home-lots were laid out at the Hither-place, twenty-one at the Ponde-place, and twelve at Willimantic. Highways were laid out through each village

plat and from the Hither-place to the Ponde-place. The committee spent five days in making the surveys and measurements, and were paid for their services at the rate of three shillings a day, but those who ran lines received an extra shilling a day.

The allotments were made to individuals by drawing, on the 1st of May, 1686. The common owners were probably all present, either in person or by representatives. Captain John Mason, William Hide and John Olmstead, having previously died, were represented by their heirs or administrators. It is a fact worthy of note that these men assembled on this occasion recognized the superintendence of an all seeing Providence, and impressed with the thought that this was serious, earnest business, and that consequences far greater than they could foresee might hang upon the results of their work, did not enter upon that work until "after prayer for direction and blessing." They then drew lots for their respective portions; some receiving one and some six shares, according to the royal pleasure of Uncas, who had ordered the distribution. Three shares were reserved for the ministry and other public purposes, according to previous agreement.

The settlement and improvement of this great tract was at first slow. This will not seem so strange when we remember that the events which we are noticing occurred about the time when the status of liberty in the colonies was wavering in the balance. Connecticut, like other colonies, was suffering from the encroachments of King James. Her privileges were cut off, her charter demanded, and her government assumed by that unsavory administrator, Sir Edmond Andross. Under his arbitrary rule attempts at settlement were discouraged. He considered an "Indian deed worth no more than the scratch of a bear's paw," and would have scouted the right of the legatees to land bequeathed by an Indian chieftain. There is no record of any attempt to secure confirmation of title from Andross. It was doubtless thought more prudent to wait in silence and in the meantime make what few improvements might be practicable until some turn of political affairs should bring them better opportunities.

Some transfers of title were made among the legatees, but no substantial settlement was made until after the restoration of charter government in 1689. Captain Samuel Mason in 1677 transferred a thousand acre right to his brother-in-law, Captain

John Brown. In 1686 Captain James Fitch sold a similar right to Josiah Standish, of Duxbury, who conveyed the same to Jacob Dingley, of Hingham, two years later. May 26th, 1688, Richard Bushnell sold to Jeremiah Ripley, also of Hingham, a similar share. Daniel Wetherell at the same date sold to Joshua Ripley an allotment. During the same summer also Calkins sold a right to Jonathan Hough, and Backus a right to Hough, Abel and Rudd. In this way the different shares and rights began to be transferred and their ownership divided and subdivided until in a short time one who should attempt to follow them would find himself in a perplexing labyrinth of titles.

For many years this tract appears to have been uninhabited and unoccupied except as an occasional hunting ground. The Indians had left it many years before, and the white settlers were slow in improving it. John Cates is said to have been the first actual settler upon it. Having bought an allotment of Daniel Mason at the Hither-place, he built a house upon it in the summer of 1689. Some other lots were fenced in, ground prepared and timber made ready for building during that summer. A division of pasture land was also laid out and distributed. The second settler is said to have been Jonathan Ginnings, who bought land of John Birchard, and took possession in 1690. Other settlers soon followed, but it is a fact which may be mentioned as somewhat a curiosity that none of the original legatees made any actual settlement or improvements upon their rights. The nearest to such a thing done by any of them was that the share of Reverend James Fitch was improved by his son John; William Backus resigned his rights to his two sons; Huntington's right was made over to a son and nephew; and John Birchard's land was occupied by two of his sons. The other legatees sold their rights, in accordance with the compact, "to wholesome inhabitants."

Some improvements were made during the year 1691. Joshua and Jeremiah Ripley, John Crane, Richard Hendee, Thomas and Joseph Huntington, William and Joseph Backus and John Larabee, had broken land, built houses and established themselves in the Hither-place. This was on what is now the west side of Windham street. Crane was a blacksmith and bought land of Calkins. Hendee bought land of Captain James Fitch. It is somewhere recorded that the young Backus brothers sold their accommodations in Norwich "to remove to the new, nameless

town springing up in the wilderness ten miles northwest of Norwich."

The social conditions soon began to run in the channels usual to civilized communities, as nearly as the peculiar surroundings would permit. Family affairs were not forgotten. The first child born in the settlement was a daughter to Jonathan Ginnings, and the date was February 10th, 1691. The first public meeting of the settlers of which we have any knowledge was on the 18th of May, 1691. Joshua Ripley, Jonathan Crane, William Backus and Joseph Backus were then directed, "To run the town lines from Appaquake eight miles south, and thence south west to Willimantic River." This work was accomplished by the 28th of the same month. During this summer a grist mill was established and set in operation by Jonathan Crane. This stood on the site of the present Bingham's Mills. A pound was also constructed on the Hither-place, and preparations were made for settling at the Ponde-place. Religious services were held occasionally by the Reverend Mr. Fitch and his son Jabez. On such occasions the settlers and their families, with whatever wandering natives happened to be with them, assembled under a tree to listen to the preaching and engage in the other exercises of the hour. These settlers were mostly connected with the Norwich church, and attended divine worship there whenever practicable. The old Nipmuck Path, on the east of the tract, and a rough way made by the first surveyors, connected the settlements. In the fall of that year (1691) the prospects of the settlement becoming permanent were sufficiently bright to encourage the settlers to petition the general court of Connecticut to grant them a charter as a town. This resulted in the organization of the town of Windham under authority of an order of the court granted May 12th, 1692, and consummated by the act of the people on the 12th of June following. Further particulars of this will be found in the chapters of this work devoted to the history of Windham town.

We have now reviewed in brief the purchases from the Indians and the first steps toward settlement in the two great and early sections of Windham county civilization. These are the north end and the southwestern part. There was still a large tract of undeveloped land in the southeastern part, called the Quinebaug country. Here was the third center of civilization in the present limits of the county. This Quinebaug country,

extending from the junction of the Quinebaug and Assawaga rivers to the north bound of Norwich town, and from the Appa-
quage or Little river eastward to Egunk, was claimed by two
powerful parties,—the heirs of Governor John Winthrop and
Major James Fitch as guardian of the Indian Owaneco. The
Winthrop claim was founded on the deed of 1653, which has
previously been noticed in particular; while Fitch was the ad-
vocate of the hereditary title of the Mohegan sachems. The
general court of Connecticut had to some extent recognized
both claims. It had “allowed the Governor his purchase, and
it had also allowed Uncas to dispose of Quinebaug lands to
Owaneco.”

The first land laid out in this disputed section was the six
hundred acres, already mentioned as being sold from the pos-
sessions of Uncas to make restitution for damages committed by
his men in burning the New London county prison. This tract
comprised some of the richest land in the Quinebaug valley, on
both sides of the river. By deeds bearing date June 23d, 1680,
it was conveyed to John, Daniel and Solomon Tracy and Richard
Bushnell. They at once took possession of it and their occu-
pancy was undisputed. A neck of land, below the river island,
Peagscomsuck, granted by Owaneco to Fitch, was also laid out
in 1680. Other large tracts in this territory were given by
Owaneco to Fitch. The boundaries in these are described as
follows, in part:—“Land and meadow east of the Quinebaug,
bounded south on Norwich town line, thence northeast to the
great brook that comes in at Peagscomsuck,” (excepting that al-
ready sold to John Tracy); “Land both sides the Little River,
that comes in at Wequanock, bounded south on Norwich town
line, west on New Plantation, land of Joshua, deceased,” &c.;
and “Land east side of Little River, taking all the corne and
plaine, improvable land, a mile in breadth from Appa-
quage to the Quinebaug, bounded north on the Wabbaquasset Country,
east on the Quinebaug, west on New Plantation and south on
common land.”

Neither Fitch nor the Winthrops attempted settlement of this
land during the troubled years of the Andross administration,
but as soon as practicable after the restoration of charter gov-
ernment, both were in the field. This conflict of claim was a
hindrance to settlement. No organized company would venture
to settle upon such ground. But the natural features of the ter-

ritory were attractive, and venturesome individuals, in a haphazard way assumed the risks and began to improve the land. The confusion of titles forbids tracing the order of settlement, as deeds subsequently pronounced invalid were not recorded on the books of the town afterward organized. The Winthrop sons, Fitz John and Wait, in October, 1690, asked the general court to confirm their title, for the benefit of those about to settle there, but no action was taken in that direction by the court. The plantation, however, was begun. A number of Massachusetts families took possession of Quinebaug land, east of the river, purchased of the Winthrops soon after 1690. The greater part of them located south of the present village of Plainfield, though some took up land as far north as the mouth of Moosup river. Most of them received deeds for their land from the Winthrops, but a few bought land from Fitch. Connecticut families were also represented in the settlers of this section. It will be interesting to know who some of these early, independent settlers were, and where they had come from.

Timothy and Thomas Pierce came from Woburn; Thomas Williams from Stow; Joseph Parkhurst, Jacob Warren, and Edward, Joseph and Benjamin Spalding from Chelmsford; Matthias Button and James Kingsbury from Haverhill; Ebenezer Harris and John Fellows from Ipswich; Isaac Wheeler, Isaac and Samuel Shepard, and their stepfather Nathaniel Jewell from Concord; Peter Crery, James Deane, William Marsh and Edward Yeomans from Stonington; William Douglas and others from New London and that vicinity. Several sons of Captain John Gallup, of Stonington, purchased land here, and perhaps settled upon it. James Welch, Thomas Harris, James and John Deane, and Philip Bump purchased land of Fitch and John Tracy. The most northerly settlers were the young Shepard brothers, who were sons of Ralph Shepard, of Malden, then deceased. Their land at the mouth of the Moosup river was that which had been given by Owaneco to Samuel Lathrop, of Norwich.

Very little is known of the early days of the Quinebaug plantation. No organization was effected, nor indeed was any attempt made in that direction for several years. The settlers broke up their land, built rude habitations and made some few improvements. The valley of the Quinebaug was found to produce very good crops of corn, and in spite of Fitch and Tracy

injunctions, was used by the settlers as a common cornfield. Parts of this field were set aside for their Indian neighbors, who were then quite numerous, but peaceable and friendly. Fears were at first entertained on their account, and garrison houses were provided, but it does not appear that they were ever called into necessary use. No attempt was made to lay out any public highways. The old Greenwich Path had then been trodden out and led from here to Providence on the east. A continuation of it westward to Windham, became in after years a much used thoroughfare between Hartford and Providence. Besides this, rough paths were trodden out to Norwich and New London, and by means of these communication with the neighboring towns was maintained.

The double land claim of Fitch and Winthrop kept society for a long time in an unsettled condition. The friends of these conflicting claimants were at open war with each other. There was no local organization, and consequently no law to protect local interests or secure the peace of the community or the protection of individual rights. The court of New London county was the nearest tribunal that had any jurisdiction here, and much violence and misdemeanor might be practiced before redress could be obtained through appeal to that body. Its protection was, however, frequently appealed to. Cutting grass on land claimed by another, gathering crops of grain belonging to others, personal assault, refusal to pay rent, profanity and threatening the life of another, extortionate demands of landlords and creditors, oppressive acts of officers of the law, stealing timber, hay, logs, rails and other depredations upon property and person were among the charges brought against individuals by others who had suffered from their injustice. The New London court was largely occupied with cases from the Quinebaug country. Fines were levied and whipping and imprisonment inflicted. The Gallups were leaders of the Winthrop faction, and the largest resident landowners. One of them, according to tradition, gave such offense to the planters, by greed and over-measurement, that he was driven out of the plantation as a "land grabber." In 1699 the Winthrops attempted to bring the question of proprietorship to an issue by entering complaints against Major Fitch and Judge Tracy for entering upon lands belonging to the plaintiffs. The cases were tried before the court of common pleas for New London county, and resulted

in a verdict for the defendants. An appeal was taken and the question remained unsettled indefinitely, while each party continued to sell and occupy what land they could. In spite of these disturbances the Quinebaug plantation gained in numbers and strength.

We have now noticed the three first settlements of Windham county territory while in their first or unorganized condition. The brief glance which we have given to the subject of the acquirement of Indian title covers the whole territory of the county, with perhaps a few unimportant exceptions. Fitch, as the representative of Owaneco, claimed the northwestern part of the county, by virtue of the conveyance of the latter in 1684. More particular delineation of the acquirement of title, division of land and organization of government will be given under the particular head of each town. It may be proper to mention before dismissing the subject, however, that the Whetstone country, a considerable tract on the east of the Quinebaug, was owned by the colony of Connecticut and remained unoccupied for many years, though grants of land, in consideration of services rendered by individuals, were occasionally made with very indefinite descriptions. On this territory Killingly was laid out in 1708, and about the same time Voluntown was surveyed and distributed to a large number of military volunteers.

CHAPTER IV.

EARLY EVENTS.

Windham County Organized.—General Condition of Society.—Valuations of Property and Productions.—Public Morals.—Their Houses.—Social Conditions.—Organization of Courts.—Court House and Jail.—Militia Organization and Training.—Woodstock Annexed to Worcester County.—Transferred to Windham County.—Organization of Probate Districts.—Emigrations of Inhabitants.—Colonization to Wyoming, N. Y.—The Susquehanna and Delaware Companies.—Settlement of Wyoming.

WINDHAM COUNTY was organized in 1726. By that time many improvements had been made in the wilderness of northeastern Connecticut. The present territory then contained eight organized towns, namely, Ashford, Canterbury, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Voluntown, Windham and Woodstock. Forests had been leveled, roads constructed, streams bridged, and land subdued and brought under cultivation. The aboriginal inhabitants were fast passing away. The wigwam was superseded by the farm house, and the tomahawk by the woodman's axe and the plow. Several hundred families were now settled here, with comfortable prospects ahead. Some favored towns had made rapid progress while others had been impeded in growth by vexatious land title controversies and other obstacles. In each, however, a church with a "learned and orthodox minister," and schools had been established, and military organization effected. Mills and tanneries had been set up, and public roads had been opened. By these roads each town was connected with one or all of the leading business centers of New England—Boston, Hartford and Providence—and so great was the travel on these thoroughfares that almost every house on them served for a tavern. The town of Woodstock was then claimed by Suffolk county, Mass.; Windham and Ashford by Hartford county; and the other five by New London county.

The remoteness of these towns from their county seat made them much inconvenience, and as early as 1717 efforts were

made to secure the organization of a new county. Failing at first to secure the necessary legislation, efforts were repeated until in May, 1726, the "Governor, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled" enacted, "That the west bounds of the town of Lebanon, the north bounds of Coventry, the north bounds of Mansfield, till it meets with the southwest bounds of Ashford, the west bounds of Ashford, the east bounds of Stafford, the Massachusetts line on the north, the Rhode Island line on the east, the north bounds of Preston and north bounds of Norwich, containing the towns of Windham, Lebanon, Canterbury, Mansfield, Plainfield, Coventry, Pomfret, Killingly, Ashford, Voluntown and Mortlake, shall be one entire county, and called by the name of Windham." The act further set forth that the town of Windham should be the county seat, and that two county courts should be held there annually—one on the fourth Tuesday in June, and one on the second Tuesday in December—and two superior courts—one on the third Tuesday in March, and the other on the third Tuesday in September of each year.

Three towns, it will be seen, were originally included in Windham county, which are now outside its limits. Lebanon, southwest from Windham, was organized as a town in 1700. Mansfield, at first a part of Windham township, was set off as a distinct incorporation in 1703. Coventry, west of Mansfield, was made a town in 1711. These were all large and important towns, and added much to the strength of the new county. The little irregular Mortlake Manor was included in a distinct township.

It is now impossible to form anything like a definite estimate of the population of that period. It is doubtful if any town except Windham numbered a hundred families. Windham was then the leading town of northeastern Connecticut, and no one disputed her right to be the county seat of the new county. In population, wealth, cultivation and political influence she had far outstripped her sister townships, and was at once recognized and received as their rightful head and leader. A few hundred Indians, chiefly Wabbaquassetts and Quinebaugs, were residents of the new county. Mohegans and Shetuckets roved freely through the towns of Canterbury and Windham. A small number of negroes were held as slaves in the more wealthy families. As to the ratable property of each town, the following figures give some idea; Ashford and Voluntown not being in that year

(1726) sufficiently organized to be assessed, their names do not appear on the list: Windham, £10,709, 10s.; Lebanon, £13,875, 15s., 4d.; Mansfield, £5,817, 0s., 6d.; Coventry, £4,490, 7s., 6d.; Plainfield, £6,532, 14s.; Canterbury, £6,229, 1s., 6d.; Pomfret, £6,474; Killingly, £5,302, 10s.

Property was very unequally distributed. Such settlers as were able to buy their land at the outset were soon in comfortable circumstances, but the great mass of the people were poor and found it difficult to pay their taxes. Money was scarce, and so were commodities that brought in money, and many could scarcely raise sufficient food for home consumption. Wheat, rye, corn, barley, flax and hemp were the chief staples of production. Manufactures were limited to leather, potash, coarse pottery, and domestic fabrics of linen and woolen. The people labored hard and suffered many trials and privations, money was scarce, food sometimes scanty and comforts few. This was especially true in the later towns, which were remote from the older settlements. Among the men of the time there was much coarseness and roughness, much bickering and backbiting, but withal a high sense of personal dignity, which was easily offended by the tongue of slander. The first generation reared in these new towns was probably inferior in education and culture to the standard of their fathers. Schools, poor at best, were maintained with great difficulty, and books were scarce. Inter-course with older towns was infrequent. Home training, the church and the town meeting—the only educating, refining and stimulating agencies—could not fully counteract the demoralizing influences and tendencies of their isolated position. The court records furnish abundant testimony to the roughness and violence of the times, and church records bear equal evidence to much looseness of morals among the people. With all their strictness in Sabbath keeping and catechizing, in family and church discipline, there was great license in speech and manner, much hard drinking and rude merry-making, with occasional outbreaks of border ruffianism. Training days were the great festive occasions in all the townships.

Houses were small and rough, and the furniture in them was rude and scanty. Food and clothing were mainly of home production, and the ordinary style of living was very plain and simple. Class distinctions, however, were brought here with the settlers, and soon began to show themselves in increased devel-

opment. A few families were able to adopt and maintain a style of comparative luxury. Ministers were looked up to as social as well as religious leaders, and with their unincumbered homesteads, a salary of sixty to one hundred pounds, and abundance of free firewood, were probably much better provided for than the majority of the people. The inventory of Mr. Whiting's estate, taken in 1725, and that of Mr. Estabrook's, two years later, show that these ministers were in very comfortable circumstances, and left ample provision for the maintenance and education of their children. Both left valuable libraries, numbering nearly two hundred volumes of standard works. A large supply of bedding was included in their household furniture, a goodly array of pewter and brass, a little silver, some chairs and high chests. Carpets and bureaus were then unknown, and earthenware was rarer than silver. The inventory of wearing apparel belonging to Mrs. Estabrook affords some interesting hints as to the customs of ladies in those days. It included "3 black crape gowns and petticoats, 1 silk stuff double gown and petticoat, 1 silk poplin gown and petticoat, 1 silk crape gown, 1 white flannel wrought petticoat, 1 stuff petticoat, 3 linen and woolen petticoats, 1 linen and woolen (home) gown and petticoat, 1 new camblet riding-hood, 1 serge riding-hood, 1 gauze hood, 1 black silk hood, 2 bonnets, 1 silk scarf, 1 pair stays, 1 head dress, 11 night caps, 8 linen aprons, 6 linen aprons, 3 linen and woolen aprons, 2 calico aprons, 2 checkered aprons, 9 speckled h. d. k. fs., 9 pairs gloves, 2 fans, 4 waist-ribbons, amber beads, 4 pairs stockings, 2 pairs shoes, &c."

After the organization of the county the first court of common pleas was held at Windham Green, June 26th, 1726. Timothy Pierce, of Plainfield, who had been judge of probate, was appointed by the general assembly judge of the county court. The justices of the quorum, who attended that first court were Joshua Ripley, of Windham; Thomas Huntington, of Mansfield; Joseph Adams, of Canterbury, and Ebenezer West, of Lebanon. Richard Abbe was appointed treasurer of the county. The jury of this court was composed of Eleazer Cary, Jonathan Crane, Joseph Ripley, Jr., Joseph Huntington, Thomas Root and Nathaniel Rust. The first act of the court was "to inquire into the circumstances" of the unfortunate Peter Davison, of Mortlake, then under the charge of Justice Adams, in pursuance of a recommendation from the county court of New London, "that this Court

should make some provision for the further support and maintenance of said idiot." Joseph Backus, of Norwich, appeared as attorney for New London county. The court was of opinion that it had "no power or authority to assign said idiot to any particular place or person for his future support." Forty-six cases were tried at this first session of the court. Licenses were also granted to Thomas Stevens, of Plainfield; Sampson Howe and Isaac Cutler, of Killingly; Solomon Tracy, Edward Spalding and Richard Pellet, of Canterbury; Francis Smith and Obadiah Rhodes, of Voluntown, "to keep houses of public entertainment for strangers, travelers and others, and also to retail strong drink," and to James Lassel, of Windham "to use and occupy ye art and mystery of tanning." At the December session Samuel Backus was arraigned for speaking "vile, ungodly and profane language," and Joseph Bolles, of New London, "for declaring to ye worshipful Judge Timothy Pierce, 'You fight against God and you are perverting wretches.'" Mehitable Morris was arraigned for unseemly conduct, was sentenced to pay ten pounds, or be whipped ten stripes upon her naked body.

A jail was at once provided for the use of the county prisoners. August 18th, 1726, the justices planned a building to be erected for this purpose, "with all possible expedition," and pending the completion of that building the back room of Mr. Richard Abbe's dwelling house was engaged to be used as a jail. More particular accounts of this reformatory institution and its successive buildings will be found in another chapter. In April, 1729, the justices began to take steps toward building a "state-house" for the county. A court house forty feet long, twenty-four feet wide and twenty feet high was decided upon, and a committee was appointed to memorialize the assembly, "praying their approbation in this affair, and also, that something be granted to said county out of the duties of goods imported into this Government to assist them in building said house; also, that something be allowed them from the counties of Hartford and New London, in consideration of what we paid for building the state houses while we belonged to said counties; also, that the town of Windham may be under the same regulations as to keeping and maintaining a grammar school in said town as the other head towns of other counties in this Colony."

The petition appears to have been granted, and its purposes accomplished except in regard to reimbursement from New

London and Hartford counties on account of what the towns of Windham might have contributed toward building their court houses. The assembly gave permission for those counties to do this, but it does not appear that they ever did anything in that direction. The new court house was erected, probably in 1730. It stood on a corner of Windham Green, and was considered a handsome building for the time.

Captain John Sabin, the first settler of Pomfret and a leading citizen of northeastern Connecticut, was appointed by the assembly in October, 1726, "Major of the Regiment in the County of Windham." Upon the petition of several persons, the assembly ordered Major Sabin, a year later, "to raise a troop in the County of Windham, and to enroll such suitable persons as will voluntarily enlist themselves and engage to equip themselves well for that service; and if there appear and enlist to the number of fifty persons, the major then lead them to the choice of all proper officers." It appears that the required number presented themselves and the troop was organized in May following, Joseph Trumbull being chosen captain; Jabez Huntington, lieutenant; Ebenezer Metcalf, cornet; and Thomas Newcomb, quartermaster.

It will be remembered that at this time the important town of Woodstock was not included in the county of Windham. It had been held by Massachusetts as a part of the very extensive county of Suffolk, but the need of different county associations were sorely felt. A movement to effect this object was begun in 1721, and renewed during the years that followed until ten years later, when in 1731 it was incorporated with many towns to the north of it into the county of Worcester. Colonel John Chandler, one of the most prominent citizens, and a member of a very influential family, was a very active and persistent advocate of the measure. The distinguished position held by the Chandler family, with the general prosperity and advancement of the town, gave Woodstock a very prominent place in Worcester county. In point of wealth it was only exceeded by the older towns, Leicester and Mendon. Its quota of tax for building the new Worcester county court house was thirty-two pounds.

We have said before that Woodstock was held by Massachusetts. Although lying south of the southern boundary line of that colony, Massachusetts having in a sense purchased the land for her offspring to settle upon, continued to exercise powers

and rights of jurisdiction as well as rights of proprietorship. As the people had favored this course, the colony of Connecticut had neglected to assert her rights of jurisdiction over this territory, which clearly fell within her bounds. But the people of Woodstock now began to see that it would be more desirable for them to be associated with the colony of Connecticut. Their taxes would be lighter and their privileges greater. Notwithstanding the original settlers came from a Massachusetts town, a new generation was now in public life, less personally connected with the mother colony. The death of Colonel Chandler severed the strongest tie that bound Woodstock to Massachusetts. That the grant of the king gave Woodstock territory to Connecticut was admitted by all parties, although an agreement between the colonies had yielded it to Massachusetts. The Woodstock people maintained that this agreement, which had never been confirmed by the king, was invalid; that a title of land could only be annulled or transferred by the power which had granted it, and that they were thus within Connecticut limits, and entitled to the privileges of its government.

The geographical position of Woodstock was similar to Somers, Suffield and Enfield, further west, in regard to the Massachusetts line. These three towns lay south of the proper Massachusetts line, while between Woodstock and Somers a large tract of Connecticut land (undisputed) ran up to the line, the territory being nearly the same as that now occupied by the towns of Stafford and Union. These Massachusetts towns extending into Connecticut territory were called "indented towns." As early as March 31st, 1737, Woodstock appointed by its vote a committee, Colonel William Chandler, to join with the other "indented towns" in a petition to the assembly of Connecticut to take them under its jurisdiction. The assembly appointed a committee to confer with a Massachusetts committee in regard to the matter, but the assembly of that colony indignantly refused to consider the question or to appoint a committee to confer with the other in regard to it. Woodstock and her neighbors, however, pressed the question during the years of a decade, and the assembly in May, 1749, acted on the matter, declaring "that all the said inhabitants which lie south of the line fixed by the Massachusetts Charter are within and have right to the privileges of this Government, the aforesaid agreement notwithstanding." A committee was also appointed to join with a Massachusetts commit-

tee in running and fixing the line between the colonies, and if the latter should refuse to participate, then the committee should through their agent in Great Britain appeal to the king to "appoint commissioners to run and ascertain the division line."

Woodstock now called a meeting of her inhabitants and organized as a town of Windham county in Connecticut, July 28th, 1749, seventy-four freemen being at that time admitted to the privileges of citizenship. After sixty-three years' subjection to the government of Massachusetts, Woodstock thus triumphantly effected her own secession. No longer an appended indentation but an integral part of her rightful commonwealth, she was now organized under Connecticut laws and formally enrolled among Windham county townships. It is not to be supposed that Massachusetts quietly submitted to this secession of towns over which she had held jurisdiction. A considerable diplomatic fire and smoke followed, but the association of Woodstock with Connecticut and with Windham county was maintained.

The northern towns of the county were at this time included in the Plainfield probate district, but this being an inconvenient arrangement for them, in 1752 a new district was formed comprising the towns of Woodstock, Pomfret, Ashford, Killingly, Mortlake and Union. Paul Bowen was appointed clerk of this court, and he kept its records in his dwelling house on Woodstock hill.

The migratory impulse which has ever been a characteristic of the New Englanders, which indeed has led the sons of the Pilgrims from Plymouth Rock to the coast of the Pacific, was early manifested in Windham county. The settlement of this field had not been consummated ere the people were looking westward in search of new fields and pastures green for their restless feet to tread upon. As early as 1735, residents of Ashford and Killingly joined with others from towns in Massachusetts in petitioning for a township among the "Equivalent Lands" allowed to Connecticut, and received a grant, which was afterward laid out as Town Number One, of Vermont. Windham settlers followed in 1737, asking for a town east of Salisbury, and although their request was refused, many residents from that and other towns of the county, removed with their families to the new towns in Litchfield county. A more decided outbreak of this emigration spirit, however, occurred about the year 1750. The charter rights of Connecticut to a strip of land

forty leagues wide, extending southwest across the continent to the Pacific ocean, had never been yielded. A proposition was now put forth to plant a colony in the Susquehanna valley and thus incorporate it into the jurisdiction of Connecticut. The marvelous richness and beauty of the proposed field of settlement was then well known, and the enthusiastic originators and promulgators of the scheme painted it in glowing colors. March 29th, 1753, the assembly was petitioned by ninety-three inhabitants of Farmington, Windham, Canterbury, Plainfield, Voluntown and several other towns, not specified in the petition, to grant a quit-claim on a tract of land sixteen miles square on both sides of the Susquehanna river. The petitioners represented that the tract in question was occupied by Indians, whose claim they proposed to purchase, and that no English inhabitant lived upon or near to it. They further proposed to go and settle upon it. No formal answer appears to have been given, but the petitioners evidently received encouragement to go on with their plans for the proposed settlement. The project now gathered additional strength. A blaze of enthusiasm seemed to invest the people. A meeting to form a company to carry out the plan was held at Windham July 18th, 1753, at which articles of agreement were signed by more than two hundred and fifty persons. A committee, consisting of Jonathan Skinner, Jabez Fitch, Eliphalet Dyer, John Smith and Captain Robert Dixon, was appointed to prospect the land, purchase the Indian claim, and lay out and convey the tract to the settlers. The subscribers agreed each to pay in advance, two "Spanish milled dollars," toward the expense of the committee, and on their return to make up any deficiency by equal shares in the amount. The committee, however, was limited to one thousand pounds in the expense they were to incur. They were to secure a tract twenty miles one way by ten miles the other. This movement, originating in Windham, soon attracted the interest of inhabitants of neighboring towns, until it extended to every corner of Connecticut. Meetings were held here and there and step by step the interest grew. At Windham, January 4th, 1754, an important meeting was held, when in answer to applications for membership in the company it was agreed to admit forty persons each from the counties of New Haven, Fairfield and Litchfield; thirty from Hartford county; twenty from New London county; and ten more from Windham. The price of a share was now

raised to four dollars instead of two, but this advance did not check the applications for membership, which now poured in so rapidly that in May it was determined to admit five hundred more, at a still further advance in price to five dollars per share. The most keen sighted and public-spirited men were engaged in promoting this scheme.

The land upon which the colony proposed to locate was held by the Six Nations. During the summer negotiations were entered into with them by Messrs. Woodbridge and Dyer representing the company, and a deed was secured for a tract of land called Quiwaumuck or Wyoming, in the Susquehanna Valley. The company had now outgrown the limits of Windham county, and its next meeting was held at Hartford on the 27th of November, 1754. At this meeting a committee was appointed to petition the king for a confirmation of the purchase. This committee was composed of Phinehas Lyman, George Wyllis, Daniel Edwards and Eliphalet Dyer. The limit of numbers now fixed for the company was eight hundred "wholesome persons," and the entrance fee for new subscribers was advanced to nine dollars. Samuel Talcott, of Hartford; Isaac Tracy, of Norwich; Samuel Gray, of Windham; Oliver Wolcott, of Litchfield; Samuel Bishop, of New Haven, and Joseph Wakeman, of Fairfield, were appointed to manage the affairs of the company in their respective counties. In May of the following year the assembly was petitioned to incorporate the colony under a charter, but though fully acquiescing in the measure it was not willing to commit itself to any action in advance of the decision of the king. The company was thus forced to await the result of its appeal to the Crown, and this being presented just at a time when the difficulties between England and France were absorbing the royal mind, received for the time no attention, and the outbreak of hostilities here still further compelled the development of the Susquehanna colony to submit to an indefinite postponement.

After the return of peace, five years later, renewed efforts were made and the Susquehanna Company resumed active operations. At a meeting held in Hartford March 12th, 1760, the committee previously appointed were directed to go forward with the work entrusted to them with all possible dispatch. Another company, known as the Delaware Company, was engaged in a similar scheme of locating a colony in the Susquehanna

Valley. Both these companies joined in sending an agent to England to get a confirmation of their purchases from the Crown, but in this they failed. The assembly of Connecticut also refused to issue a charter for town settlements or incorporation in territory which was claimed with so much reason by the government of Pennsylvania. Powerful Indian tribes also contested the ground. Before all the Indian claimants had been satisfied the company gave liberty to individuals to begin settlement there. This liberty was improved by several Connecticut families, who effected a settlement in the Wyoming valley in the years 1762 and 1763, but were soon attacked by the hostile savages and butchered without mercy. On the return of Eliphalet Dyer, who had been sent as the agent of the Delaware and Susquehanna companies to Great Britain on a fruitless errand to the king, both companies were summoned to Windham court house January 16th, 1765, to hear his report.

Undeterred by rebuff and threatened opposition, the Susquehanna Company continued its efforts. Renewed attempts were made to gain the sanction of Connecticut, but that government was too wise to expose itself to collision with Pennsylvania, and discreetly withheld its formal endorsement of the enterprise. Colonel Dyer in particular, so warmly pleaded its cause, and so glowingly depicted the charms of the Wyoming Valley as to call out from one of the wits of the day the poetic impromptu:

"Canaan of old, as we are told,
Where it did rain down Manna,
Wa'n't half so good for heavenly food
As Dyer makes Susquehanna."

The Susquehanna Company was, however, too powerful an organization and too strongly entrenched in popular favor, to be repressed by lack of official aid or recognition. At a meeting in Hartford in 1768, it was voted that five townships, five miles square, should be surveyed and granted each to forty settlers, being proprietors, on condition that these settlers should remain upon the ground and defend themselves and each other from the intrusion of all rival claimants. To encourage them still further, the sum of two hundred pounds was appropriated to provide implements of husbandry and provisions. Great as the risk was, there were many ready to meet it. The chance of gaining a home in the beautiful valley was worth a contest, and indeed to some who had shared in the exciting service of the

French war, the prospect of a brush with the "Pennymites" may have furnished an additional incentive.

Early in 1769, forty adventurous Yankees descended upon Wyoming. Foremost among them were old French war campaigners, Captain Zebulon Butler, of Lyme, and Captain John Durkee, once of Windham, now of Norwich. Thomas Dyer, Vine Elderkin, Nathaniel Wales and Nathan Denison, of Windham; and Timothy Pierce, of Plainfield, were also among the heroic "forty." They found the "Pennymites" already in possession of the field, but they gave battle, and after a sharp and spirited contest were obliged to quit the field, leaving Durkee and other leading men in the hands of the enemy. Colonel Dyer and Major Elderkin were equally unsuccessful in attempting to negotiate an amicable settlement with the proprietary government of Pennsylvania. Funds were raised by the activity of Ebenezer Backus and Captains Joseph Eaton and Robert Durkee, with other men in other parts of Connecticut, for the relief and support of the prisoners.

A still larger force returned to the charge in 1770, and a more serious contest ensued, but they were also compelled to retire with loss of life and destruction of property. After taking and losing Fort Durkee in the course of the following winter, the Yankees opened the siege in the spring of 1771, with fresh forces and leaders, resolved to carry on the war to the last extremity. The "Pennymites" met them with their usual spirit and gallantry, though greatly crippled in resources. After defending the fort for several months they were at last forced to accept articles of capitulation, and withdrew from Wyoming, leaving the rejoicing Yankees in possession of the land so valiantly contested.

Organization was now speedily effected. The towns already laid out were divided into farms and distributed. Those who had fought for the prize were rewarded by bountiful homesteads, and many other families from all parts of Connecticut eagerly sought a share. Windham county, so active in proposing and promoting the establishment of the colony, was equally ready to take possession, and scores of valuable families removed thither in the course of a few years. Among them may be mentioned Stephen Fuller, John and Stephen Abbott, John Carey, Elisha Babcock and Robert Durkee, of Windham; Simon Spalding, Ezekiel Pierce and John Perkins, of Plainfield; Captain Samuel

Ransom, Captain James Bidlack and Elisha Williams, of Canterbury; George and John Dorrance, Robert Jameson and Cyrus Kinne, of Voluntown; Anderson Dana, Joseph Biles and Stephen Whiton, of Ashford. Many of these were men in the prime of life, with large families, accustomed to the management of affairs, and eminently fitted to aid in laying the foundation of social order and moulding the new settlement after the pattern of Connecticut. The fertility of the soil, the mildness of the climate, the beauty of the country and the abundance of its resources far exceeded the expectations, and such glowing reports came back to the rocky farms of Windham county, that emigration raged for a time like an epidemic, and seemed likely to sweep away a great part of the population.

CHAPTER V.

THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR.

Military Spirit of the People.—Expedition against Crown Point.—Fasting and Prayer by the People at Home.—Eastern Connecticut Regiment at Lake George.—Distinguished Sons of Windham.—Defeat of Braddock.—Earthquake.—Popular Alarm.—Filling the Ranks with Recruits.—List of Soldiers.—Official Honors.—Capture of Fort William Henry by Montcalm.—Enlistments and Names of Recruits.—Sufferings of the Soldiers, and of their Families at Home.—First Census of Connecticut in 1756.—Population, Valuation, Churches and Schools.—General Progress.

THE French and Indian war interested Windham county in common with her sister counties in this and other New England colonies. In August, 1755, a regiment was raised in eastern Connecticut to assist in the proposed expedition against Crown Point. Eliphalet Dyer was appointed lieutenant colonel of this regiment. Each town of the county was ordered to furnish its proportion of men. John Grosvenor was captain of the company in Pomfret, and Nehemiah Tyler and Israel Putnam first and second lieutenants, respectively. Notwithstanding the dangers and difficulties of the service, the requisite number of recruits was speedily secured. A strong military spirit pervaded the people, to which was added a sense of religious and patriotic obligation, and these prompted the people to ready obedience to what they considered the call of duty. But not with the hilarious spirit of reckless adventurers did they meet this call. Rather with a spirit of humble reliance on a higher power who was able to lead them through the dark and uncertain way which lay before them, did they face the practical and serious question of the hour. As an example, we may quote the record of the vote passed by the people of Ashford at a church meeting, September 9th, which was, "to keep a day of fasting and prayer one day in a month to Almighty God, in behalf of our friends that are gone and going to defend our land against an encroaching foe; that they may be preserved

and have success." And on the same day it was voted in town meeting, "That the town do concur with the church in keeping a day of fasting once a month."

The Eastern Connecticut regiment at once joined the forces at Lake George, and did good service during the remainder of the campaign. Those heroic qualities which afterward made Putnam famous were at once shown and recognized. Associating himself with a company of rangers under command of Captain Robert Rogers, he engaged with great ardor and boldness in the most exciting and hazardous service. The official report of his first thirty days' service is a series of hair-breadth escapes and thrilling adventures. Alone, or with but a single companion, he passed night after night in reconnoissances; creeping under bushes into encampments of hundreds of hostile Indians, and lying all night within reach of their muskets, venturing on one occasion, at Crown Point, within a rod of the sentry, and having his blanket shot through in different places as he was retreating from his perilous position.

Another son of Windham county distinguished himself during this first campaign. This was Nathan Whiting, youngest son of Reverend Samuel Whiting, of Windham, who had established himself in business at New Haven, but went to the front as lieutenant colonel of the First Connecticut regiment. By his resolute action and skillful management on the field of battle at Fort Edward, he rallied his regiment from a destructive panic which followed the death of their colonel and other leaders in the fight, and largely influenced the turning of the tide which routed the French under Dieskau and secured a victory for the English arms. "For his extraordinary services," upon this and other occasions, a reward was granted him by the assembly of Connecticut. His brothers, William and Samuel, also served as colonels during this war.

In addition to the depression felt by the colonists in view of the defeat of Braddock and the failure of several projected expeditions, the public mind was greatly alarmed by a severe earthquake shock, felt in all parts of the country, which occurred about four o'clock in the morning of November 18th, 1755. The air was clear and calm, the moon was shining with her usual placidity, but the sea was roaring on the shore with such a noise as hardly ever was known. The first shock lasted about one and a half minutes, being succeeded by a second one still more

terrific. Mr. Stiles, of Woodstock, reports: "The *terra motus* in this place very severe, lasting about two minutes—earth violently shaken." This unusual phenomenon was considered an omen of further reverses and disasters. Alarming sickness and mortality already prevailed among the soldiers. One of the first victims of the war was the beloved young Separate minister, Thomas Stevens, dying at his father's house on Thanksgiving day, of disease contracted while serving in the army as a chaplain. In this hour of darkness the Windham County Association, early in 1756, recommended a day of prayer to be observed in all the churches, "on account of frequent and amazing earthquakes; strange, unusual and distressing war; awful growth and spread of vice, infidelity and iniquity; *i. e.*, some hour of the afternoon of the last Thursday in every month, leaving it discretionary with the ministers whether to spend the whole time in prayer only, or give the people a sermon suitable to the occasion."

These untoward events and gloomy forebodings did not, however, discourage enlistments and preparations for further action. In November Israel Putnam received a commission as captain, and was ordered to raise a company of men to hold Fort Edward during the ensuing winter. Many young men in Pomfret and adjacent towns were eager to serve with so spirited and popular a leader, and the ranks were soon filled, as follows: Captain, Israel Putnam; lieutenants, Nathaniel Porter and Henry Chapin; sergeants, Henry Pearson, Peter Leavens, Peleg Sunderland and William Manning; corporals, David Cleveland, Nathan Hale, David Whitmore and Thomas Lyon; drummer, Nathan Bacon; clerk, Isaac Dean; soldiers, Robert Austin, Matthew Davis, Daniel Isham, Micajah Torrey, Eliphalet Carpenter, Samuel White, Littlefield Nash, Jeremiah Jackson, Peter Bowen, Timothy Harrington, Giles Harris, Ebenezer Cary, John Austin, Aaron Dewey, John Waters, Eli Lewis, Samuel Horton, Ezekiel White, Robert Newell, Samuel Webb, Gideon Webb, Solomon Mack, Zaccheus Crow, Roger Crow, Charles Biles, Edward Tryon, Edad Parson, Stephen Pease, Wareham Pease, Thomas Brigdon, James Hartford, Thomas Eddy, George Gregory, John Metcalf, John Philips, John Hutchinson and Benjamin Shipman.

The forces under Johnson during the winter of 1755-56 remained in their quarters at Fort Edward, strengthening it and completing and equipping Fort William Henry at the southwestern ex-

tremity of Lake George, and constructing a more commodious road between these two important positions. Putnam's company was chiefly occupied with the congenial service of scouting and ranging, carrying on a sharp guerilla warfare with the bands of hostile savages which infested that region. So efficient was this service that, in May, Captain Putnam received from the general assembly a grant of fifty Spanish milled dollars in recognition of his "extraordinary services and good conduct in ranging and scouting the winter past for the annoyance of the enemy near Crown Point, and discovery of their motions."

It is now impossible to give any definite account of the participation of the towns in the county in this war, as they preserved no lists of the men who went from these towns. But there is sufficient evidence to show that Windham county took hold of the matter of frontier defense with no laggard or indifferent spirit. Among the Windham county names, the following were honored with the rank of captain: John Payson, Nathan Payson, William Whiting, Samuel Whiting, Eleazer Fitch, John Grosvenor, Ebenezer Williams, Aaron Cleveland, of Canterbury; Edward Marcy, of Ashford; Ezekiel Pierce and Benjamin Lee, of Plainfield; Robert Durkee, of Canada Parish; David Holmes, of Woodstock; Benjamin Crary and John Keigwin, of Voluntown; John Leavens and Samuel Fairbanks, of Killingly; Samuel Larned, of Thompson Parish, Joseph Paine, of Pomfret. The company headed by Captain Eleazer Fitch comprised the following men, most of whom were from Windham; James Tracy and Ezekiel Fitch, lieutenants; Elijah Simons and Asa Richardson, sergeants; Nathan Lilly, Peter Bowditch and William Parish, corporals; Edward Bibbins, Nathaniel Ripley, Darius Waterman, Joseph Farnum, Asa Stevens, Isaac Canada, Aaron Eaton, Henry Brewster, Jonathan Knight, Benjamin Holden, Josiah Fuller, Simon Cady, Stephen Baker, Caleb Austin, George Parker, John Watson, Michael Watson, David Woodworth, Daniel Moulton, James Hide, George Dunham, Joseph Truesdell, Jonathan Canada, Daniel Squier, Moses Sparks, Phinehas Manning, Benjamin Cary, Cyrus Richards, Joshua Hebard, Samuel Morris, William Gordon, Benjamin Paul, Roger Crary and Enos Bartholomew, privates. Putnam's second company was mostly made up from Plainfield and Voluntown; among its members were Thomas Gallup, as lieutenant; George Creary, as sergeant; Ebenezer Davis and David Shep-

ard, as corporals, and Robert Dixon, Benjamin Parks, Elijah Cady, Ezekiel Whiting, James Ashley and Thomas Rudd as soldiers.

Directly following the alarm caused by the capture of Fort William Henry by Montcalm, four volunteer companies marched from Windham county, commanded respectively by Abner Baker, of Ashford; John Carpenter, of Woodstock; Isaac Coit, of Plainfield, and John Grosvenor, of Pomfret. As these volunteers were mostly men advanced in life it seems highly probable that most of the young men were already in the service. Captain Carpenter's company was made up as follows: Sergeants, Josiah Child, William Manning and Stephen Marcy; lieutenant, Diah Johnson; corporals, Timothy Perrin and Jonathan Knapp; privates, Isaac Stone, Benjamin Joslin, Zebediah Sabin, Elisha Marcy, Daniel Corbin, Jesse Carpenter, Benjamin Bacon, Joseph Bishop, Thomas Fox, Abraham Frizzel, Abijah Griggs, Abel Hammond, Jeremiah Tucker, Abner Darling, Abijah Nichols, Nathaniel Ormsbee, Joseph Perry, Joseph Peake, Joseph Frizzel, David Barret, Henry Lyon, Daniel Bacon, Uriah Marcy, George Lyon, Jonathan Nelson, Ephraim Peake, Joseph Bugbee, Benjamin Deming, Elisha Child, Ezra Child, Nathaniel Ellithorp, Luke Upham, Nathaniel Saunders, Elnathan Walker, Eliphalet Goodell, Samuel Dodge, Ezra Abbe, Benjamin Marcy, Zebulon Marcy, Elisha Goodell, Daniel Allard, Increase Child, Benjamin Dana, Samuel Lyon, Stephen Lyon, Daniel Lyon, Joseph Town, Joseph Newell, Nathan Bixby, Peter Leavens, William Marsh, Noah Barrows, John Barrows, Thomas Shapley, and Calvin Torrey. Captain Grosvenor's company comprised Ebenezer Holbrook and John Cotton, lieutenants; Joseph Robbins, Moses Earl, Joseph Johnson and Josiah Sabin, sergeants; Josiah Brown, Jonathan Fisk, Benoni Cutler and Jonathan Coy, corporals; Nathaniel Stowell, clerk, and the following privates: Elijah Sharpe, Joseph Sumner, Elijah Chandler, James Williams, — Coy, — Danielson, Simeon Lee, Jonathan Jeffards, Jonathan Saunders, James Holmes, Nathaniel Goodell, William Blackmar, Nathaniel Barnes, Joseph Collier, John Patton, James Anderson, Thomas Gould, Joseph Grover, Joseph Sprague, Elijah Cady, Stephen Brown, Benjamin Tucker, Benjamin Craft, Jacob Whitmore, Ebenezer Covill, Jonathan Cutler, and men by the name of Hyde, Hubbard, Goodell, Aldrich and Alton.

These lists contain but a small part of the names of those who served in the war. It is probable that but few families in the county were without one or more representatives in the army. In addition to those who went to fill Windham's quota, others went to make up the quotas of other places. As an example, Darias Sessions, who had removed hence to Providence, returned and raised a company of recruits in Pomfret and Abington to serve for Rhode Island. During the war Eliphalet Dyer was promoted to the rank of colonel; Nathan Payson and Israel Putnam to that of lieutenant colonel; and Elisha Lord, of Abington, was a surgeon. Many others distinguished themselves, and gained experience which fitted them for still more notable achievements in the revolutionary struggle which was soon to follow.

The sufferings of the soldiers, great as they were, could hardly exceed those of their families at home, not only from suspense and anxiety, but from actual privation and destitution. Very little definite knowledge can, however, be gained. We only know that the currency was greatly demoralized, provisions and clothing were scarce, and all the resources of the country were very limited. As an instance, it is told on very good authority that the family of Ensign Samuel Perrin, of Pomfret, subsisted through one entire winter mainly on a crop of carrots which Mrs. Perrin had raised.

The first census of Connecticut was taken in 1756. The towns of Windham county numbered at that time as follows: Ashford, 1,245 white; Canterbury, 1,240 white, 20 black; Killingly, 2,100 white; Plainfield, 1,751 white, 49 black; Pomfret, 1,677 white, 50 black; Voluntown, 1,029 white, 19 black; Windham, 2,406 white, 40 black; Woodstock, 1,336 white, 30 black; Coventry, 1,617 white, 18 black; Lebanon, 3,171 white, 103 black; Mansfield, 1,598 white, 16 black; Union, 500 white. Taking from the list the five towns which have since been withdrawn to other counties, the population of the territory now embraced by Windham county was 11,755 whites and 189 blacks. These blacks were mostly owned as slaves by the more opulent families. They were generally employed as house or body servants, and were treated with great favor and indulgence. No instances of cruelty or neglect have been reported, and no complaint against any master has been found on the court records. The Indian residents were not enumerated at this time. Though

greatly reduced in number, they still occupied their old haunts in several towns. Mohegans still asserted their rights to the Quinebaug country, and exercised the privilege of fishing in the river, cutting down trees, and, in general, taking whatever they needed.

The rate-list of 1759 gives to the towns of the present Windham county the following valuations: Ashford, £12,608 9s. 6d.; Canterbury, £16,333 3s. 3d.; Killingly, £21,837; Plainfield, £12,341 19s. 6d.; Pomfret, £20,113 13s. 3d.; Windham, £26,952 1s. 4d.; Woodstock, £16,500. The unsettled condition of the currency at this date makes it difficult to know the real value of this estimate, but it was not probably equal to one-third of the amount in silver.

Churches at that time were organized and in active work in the towns as then constituted, as follows: In Ashford, one; in Canterbury, two; in Killingly, five; in Plainfield, two; in Pomfret, three; in Voluntown, one; in Windham, four; and in Woodstock, three. Schools, though poor and insufficient, were gradually improving. Towns and societies were now divided into districts, each maintaining its own school. High schools and academies were yet unknown. Those wishing further advancement than the common schools could give them repaired to the ministers. The influence and authority of the clergy were by this means greatly strengthened. The best educated men of the day, leaders in church and state, honored them as their instructors and spiritual fathers. Ministers of the town as well as of the church, they occupied a most prominent and dignified position, and were usually treated with great respect and deference.

Very little progress had yet been made in the manufactures. The few articles needed for domestic use were made in the home circle or by neighborhood itinerants. Inventories of estates show a gradual improvement in household furniture and conveniences. The poverty and limited resources of the people, domestic broils and foreign war, however, had greatly impeded progress, and it is probable that no marked change had been wrought, either in the face of the country or the condition and manners of the people, since the organization of the county in 1726. Yet, in the face of many opposing obstacles, much had been accomplished. Settlements had been made, towns founded, institutions established, and a good foundation had been laid, upon which the coming generations might build.

CHAPTER VI.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD.

Spirit of the People.—Influence of their Leading Patriots, Dyer, Durkee and Putnam.—Indignation at the Stamp Act of 1765.—Burning Effigies.—Positive Demonstrations.—Treatment of Stamp Agents.—Sons of Liberty in Windham.—Popular Outburst in 1767.—Determination of the People against using English Goods.—Closing of the Port of Boston.—Windham the first to send Relief.—Rough Handling of Royal Agents.—The “Boycott” applied to an Adherent of the King.—“Windham Boys” noted for their Aggressive Patriotism.—Fever Heat of the Public Mind.—Alarm from Boston, September, 1774, heralded through the Towns, and answered by Putnam and two hundred Volunteers.—Convention of Delegates at Norwich.—Providing Ammunition.—Preparing for War.—Organization of Militia.—Unity of Sentiment.—Answering the Call from Lexington April 9, 1775.—Gathering of Troops.—Windham County first to send Troops to the Scene of Conflict.—One-fourth of the Militia called out.—Officers of Windham Troops.—Manufacturing Munitions of War.—Windham Soldiers at Bunker Hill.—Earnest Work of the Men at Home.—Energetic Women help on the Cause.—Windham Soldiers after Bunker Hill.—Encouragement at the Withdrawal of British Troops from Boston in 1776.—Manufacture of Powder, Balls and Guns at Home.—More Troops wanted.—At the Battle of Long Island.—Organization of the Troops, 1776.—The “Oliver Cromwell” fitted out.—Depressing Monotony of the long continued War.—Windham County Losses.—Raising their Quotas.—Massacre by the Indians in the Wyoming Valley.—Attempt upon Newport, 1778.—Constancy of Windham Patriots.—Self-sacrificing Women.—The fallen Heroes.—Young Men in the Field.—Raising Troops, 1780.—Armies *en route* through Windham County.—Cessation of Hostilities.—Return of Peace.—Dealing with the few Tories.—Scanty Pay of the Soldiers.—Organization of new Towns.—Adopting the new Constitution, 1788.—Windham’s Representatives in the Convention.

WE come now to that period which, of all periods in its history, is to the American nation the most important—the period of the revolution. After what we have noticed of the action and sentiment of the people of Windham in the French war, we should naturally expect to find them taking an active interest in the vital questions of this trying era. And in this we are not disappointed. The citizens of Windham county had been reared to an intelligent participation in the government of Connecticut. As soon as a town was able

to pay its part of the public expenses it had sent representatives to the general assembly, and the proceedings and reports of those representatives were closely scrutinized and debated at home. The management of their public affairs had developed a spirit of self-reliance and independent judgment, and as a consequence wise leaders and administrators were to be found in every community. Taxation for the support of civil government had been associated with a voice in its administration. No town presumed to send deputies till it could pay public charges. An additional cause of interest which the people of this county had in the national uprising lay in the fact that their position on the main thoroughfares of travel brought them into very close and constant communication with the leading towns of the northern colonies. Filial and fraternal relations connected them with the flaming patriots of Boston and Providence. The earnest words and warnings of Colonel Dyer, who was then in London, where he could well judge the aims and temper of the British government, made a deep impression upon the citizens of Windham—"If the colonists do not now unite, they may bid farewell to liberty, burn their charters, and make their boast of thralldom." A still more potent stimulus was found in the pervading influence of Putnam, Durkee, and other popular military leaders, men of mettle and experience, quick to apprehend the exigency, and most effective in appeal to popular sympathy.

When the opprobrious stamp act in 1765 was passed by the British parliament, the people of Windham county were among the first to join in the popular indignation which found a chorus of expression throughout the colonies. It was learned that one of their own number had been appointed a deputy stamp-master under Ingersoll. The excitement caused by this news was intense. The prospective officer was waited upon by a self-appointed vigilance committee and compelled to give up his letter of appointment and solemnly promise to decline the office. On the morning of August 26th, in concert with the action of many other towns, Windham publicly hung this person in effigy upon Windham Green, where a large concourse of people assembled to witness the mock tragedy. Effigies of other suspected and unpopular individuals were successively brought forward and hung up, amid the jeers of the excited multitude. After hanging all day they were taken down at evening and

paraded about the village, and then burned upon a huge bonfire. The neighboring town of Lebanon observed the day with more dignity and solemnity, draping her public buildings with black, and subjecting her effigies to a formal trial and sentence before proceeding to hang and burn them.

The citizens of Windham and New London counties were fully determined to prevent the distribution of the stamps. When it was found out that Governor Fitch was preparing to carry out the instructions of the king, and that the colony agent, Jared Ingersoll had accepted the position of stamp-master, they sallied out in great force to end the matter at once and forever. Five hundred horsemen, armed with clubs and other weapons, and provided with eight days' provision, marched across the country under the leadership of Captain John Durkee, and intercepting Ingersoll on his way to Hartford, compelled him to write his name to a formal resignation which had been prepared for him. Putnam was accredited with a prominent share in the instigation of this irruption, though at the time he was prevented by sickness from taking an active part in its execution. As soon as possible, however, he waited upon Governor Fitch in behalf of the Sons of Liberty, to ensure that no other stamp-master should be appointed, and no further attempt made to enforce the act, and with his usual directness he assured the governor that if he refused to relinquish control of the stamped paper his house would be "leveled with the dust in five minutes." Nathan Frink, king's attorney in Pomfret, was appointed deputy stamp-master for the northern part of the county. After building an office for their reception he was assured by his fellow-citizens that he would never be allowed to use it for that purpose. The words "LIBERTY & EQUALITY. DOWN WITH THE STAMP ACT," were inscribed upon a stone tablet which was raised to a conspicuous position above the door of Mr. Manning's dwelling, near Manning's bridge in the south part of Windham town.

In the various convocations of patriots during this eventful time Windham bore a conspicuous part. Colonel Dyer was sent as a delegate to the first general congress held in New York in October. At a meeting of the Sons of Liberty in Hartford March 25th, 1766, which was said to be "much more generally attended by the two eastern counties of Connecticut," Colonel Putnam, Major Durkee and Captain Ledlie were appointed a

committee to arrange a correspondence with the loyal Sons of Liberty in other colonies; and Ledlie, then a resident of Windham, was sent as a representative to a general convention of that order in Annapolis. Such vigorous resistance and the general suppression of business which it induced, excited the commercial men and statesmen of Great Britain to plead for the repeal of the odious act, which was soon accomplished.

In 1767 Great Britain again laid the hand of oppression upon the colonies by imposing a tax upon paper, glass, painters' colors and tea. This again roused a tornado of excitement and opposition throughout the colonies. A meeting in Boston in October called upon the people to act unitedly in refusing to use the imported articles on which tax was laid. In this sentiment the towns of this county heartily acquiesced. All were ready to pledge themselves to abstinence from foreign luxuries. On December 7th Windham met and appointed a committee to draft a response to the appeal of the selectmen of Boston, which response was a month later reported and unanimously adopted by the townspeople. This response was virtually a pledge of the people not to use any goods imported, mentioned in the list which was embodied in it. Other recommendations were also given tending toward economy in living and thus increasing the possibilities of independence among the colonies. Committees of correspondence were also appointed, to keep up internal communication so that the sentiments and action of the sister towns of this and neighboring counties might be known and as far as possible in harmony with each other. Imported luxuries, in food, drink and dress were given up, and the theory of practical independence was put to a rigid test. Ashford held a similar meeting on December 14th, and Canterbury fell into the line on the 21st. Other towns followed. The sentiments expressed and action taken were harmonious. The closing of the port of Boston by the British parliament in 1774 again aroused the people to expressions of sympathy and indignation. Meetings were held in the different towns, and resolutions of sympathy were passed. These resolutions were not empty ebullitions of wordy and windy patriotism, but were expressions of hearty feeling, and were backed up by substantial contributions for the relief of the oppressed town of Boston. Windham town has the honor of being the first to send such relief. This was given in the form of a flock of two hundred and fifty-eight sheep which were

driven to Boston during the last few days of June, as a voluntary offering. Other towns of the county were soon in the field with contributions from their flocks, which at that time were a considerable part of their available means. Contributions of other animals and substantial tokens in other forms were forwarded.

As the clouds thickened for war the people of Windham county proved themselves ready for action, as well as for verbal expressions. Mr. Francis Green, of Boston, one of the "addressers" and adherents of Governor Hutchinson, having ventured into Connecticut to collect debts and transact private business, was forcibly expelled from Windham town, as well as from Norwich. On returning to Boston he advertised a reward of one hundred dollars for the apprehension "of five ruffians calling themselves by the names of Hezekiah Bissell, Benjamin Lathrop, Timothy Larrabee, Ebenezer Backus and Nathaniel Warren," all of them belonging in Windham, and who he declares did with the help of a great number of others, "assault the subscriber, surround the house in which he was stopping, forcibly enter the same, and with threats and intimidations insist upon his immediate departure." By the patriot journals Mr. Green's ejection was called "the cool, deliberate remonstrance of the Sons of Freedom." In reference to the affair Colonel Eleazer Fitch, high sheriff of the county, and an adherent of the king, declared "that the Norwich and Windham people had acted like scoundrels in treating Mr. Green as they did." The people thus stigmatized came together in great wrath and firmly resolved and declared that they would administer tar and feathers to any blacksmith, barber, miller, or common laborer "who should aid said Fitch in any way," and as these expressions were known to be no idle forms of speech, they were heeded to such an extent that no one dare harvest his wheat and grass, and so they stood till they rotted and fell down on the ground. Also a considerable trade was withdrawn from him, thus executing a most effectual "boycott."

Another instance which serves to illustrate the spirit of the time in Windham county was that of John Stevens, of Ashford, a man of considerable landed property and a prominent citizen. He was suspected of being an enemy to the "constitutional rights of American liberty," and a committee waited upon him, and obtained his confession that he had spoken against the

chartered rights of the American colonists. He was compelled to sign a paper in which he humbly asked forgiveness for this offense, and declared that he would never say or do anything against the Sons of Liberty, but was himself a true Son of Liberty and would remain so to the end of his life.

The zeal of Windham patriots was too ardent and effusive to be restricted to the limits of the county. Their intense enthusiasm in the popular cause led them to take an active part in all aggressive demonstrations. Inspectory committees were constantly on the alert, and "Windham boys" were ever ready to aid in forays upon suspected tories. Colonel Abijah Willard, of Lancaster, Mass., a man of large wealth and high character, had made himself obnoxious to the people by accepting the office of mandamus councilor to Governor Gage. He had business interests in Connecticut which were intrusted to two attorneys in Windham, whom he invited to meet with him for consultation in the town of Union. A report of his intended visit took wing and when he arrived in Union he was met by hundreds of ardent patriots from Windham and adjoining towns who took him into their keeping, guarding him through the night, and conveyed him next morning over the line into Brimfield, where they formally delivered him over to a body of Massachusetts citizens, by whom he was compelled, under pain of being put to work in the Simsbury mines, to ask "forgiveness of all honest men for having taken the oath of office," and to promise not to exercise the functions of the office.

The public mind was in a condition of fever heat, ready to burst out at any moment into a demonstrative uprising of the people to arms. On the 2d of September, 1774, a rumor started from Boston that the British soldiers there had fired upon the people. The news was brought to Colonel Putnam at Pomfret, and he at once forwarded it to other towns south and west. The following day, being Sabbath, Putnam's message was read in many assembled congregations, and the men left their places in the worshipping assembly to take up arms and go to the defense of Boston and the country. Two hundred volunteers left the town of Windham by sunrise on the morning of the 4th, and bodies of men were dispatched also from all the other towns of the county. They had scarcely passed the Massachusetts line, however, when they were met by a contradiction of the alarm.

This revelation that the people throughout the colonies were

ready to take up arms whenever occasion should call them to do so, greatly cheered the patriot leaders and stimulated them to further resistance. The report of this uprising excited much interest at home and abroad. Five hundred men were under arms in Pomfret, and Putnam in behalf of them wrote: "Words cannot express the gladness discovered by every one at the appearance of a door being opened to avenge the many abuses and insults which those foes to liberty have offered to our brethren in your town and province. But for counter intelligence we should have had forty thousand well equipped and ready to march this morning. Send a written express to the foreman of this committee when you have occasion for our martial assistance."

These circumstances suggested to the people the necessity for all possible provision for the conflict, which even then must have seemed inevitable. A convention of delegates from New London and Windham counties was held at Norwich on the 9th of the same month, having for its object a preparation for future emergency. It was then decided that every town should supply itself as speedily as possible with a full complement of ammunition and military stores, that every military company should equip themselves at once and perfect themselves in the practice of military exercises by calling together the companies and giving instructions to those unfamiliar with handling arms and military movements, and the officers were called upon to study more completely their duties, and see that the militia were made thoroughly familiar with the arts of war and military skill and discipline. The general assembly in October directed that each town in the colony should provide double the quantity of powder, balls and flints that they had heretofore been required to keep on hand.

The suggestions with regard to military preparations were carried out with promptness and alacrity by all the towns. The military ardor of the citizens needed little stimulus, but there was great lack of drill and discipline. Company trainings had been stately observed in every neighborhood, but the prescribed regimental reviews had been to a great degree omitted. A grand military parade had indeed been held in Plainfield some time in 1773, especially memorable for inciting the first stirrings of military enthusiasm in the heart of a young Rhode Island Quaker, Nathaniel Greene, who, with hundreds of other

spectators, rode many miles to witness the scene. A review of the Eleventh regiment had also been held at Woodstock in May, 1774, which was very notable for the large numbers present, as well as for the patriotic enthusiasm exhibited. Field officers and commissioners from New London and Windham counties now planned a great regimental meeting to be held at Windham town in the spring of 1775. Ten colonels were associated in it, and a corresponding number of regiments were included. The military companies in Plainfield, Canterbury, Voluntown, and the south part of Killingly now formed the Twenty-first regiment. The others remained as before, viz.: Companies of Windham, Mansfield, Coventry and Ashford formed the Fifth regiment, of which Jedediah Elderkin was colonel, Experience Storrs lieutenant-colonel, and Thomas Brown major. Pomfret, Woodstock, and the north and central companies of Killingly were included in the Eleventh regiment, of which Ebenezer Williams was colonel and William Danielson major. Lebanon was included in the Twelfth regiment and Union in the Twenty-second. A troop of horse was attached to each regiment. Company trainings were held at least once a month during the winter, and special preparation was made for the parade in April. Liberty poles were set up in many of the towns, with appropriate exercises. A great crowd assembled on Killingly hill and hoisted two long sticks of timber united by a couple of cross-ties. From the top of this high pole a flag was flung to the breeze, decorated with a rising sun and other suggestive devices. A stray Englishman who had settled in the neighborhood smiled scornfully at the demonstrations. "Ah!" said he, "you know nothing of Old England; she will come and cut down your liberty pole for you."

It is hardly necessary to say that a remarkable unity of sentiment existed among the people of Windham county at this time. Tories were very few, and those who did entertain sentiments in favor of the mother country were careful about flaunting those sentiments too strongly in the face of their neighbors. They were, instead, but quiet factors, looking passively on and taking no part in the demonstrations that the people were making around them, and at the same time raising no voice to oppose them.

Following the rencontre between the king's troops and the provincials at Lexington on the morning of April 9th, despatches

were received in the towns of this county on the next day, and the call for help met with a ready response from thousands who had been preparing for such an emergency. Putnam, plowing in the pleasant April morning, heard the summons, and leaving his son to unyoke the team, hurried off for consultation with town committees and military officers. A second express, coming by way of Woodstock, was brought to Colonel Ebenezer Williams, of Pomfret, at three o'clock in the afternoon, and forwarded at once to Colonel Obadiah Johnson, of Canterbury, with a postscript stating that a thousand of our troops had surrounded the First brigade at Boston, and that fifty of our men and one hundred of the enemy were killed. Almost the entire male population of Windham county was now up in arms, ready to go to the scene of the conflict. Putnam, on returning from his consultations, found hundreds of men already assembled on the Green at Brooklyn, awaiting his orders. He bade them wait until regularly called out as militia, and then, without rest or refreshment, he started at sunset on his memorable ride by night to Cambridge. There is evidence that the news was received in Killingly at an earlier hour that morning than it had been received at Brooklyn. An express from Boston came to Mr. Hezekiah Cutler, who, on receiving it, rose from his bed and fired three guns as an alarm. This was answered by fifteen men, who, with Mr. Cutler, were on the road toward Cambridge before sunrise.

Friday, the 20th of April, was a day of activity and excitement in Windham county. Preparations were everywhere in progress. Officers were riding rapidly around in every direction, bullets were being cast and accoutrements and rations provided. Many, especially in the northern towns, shouldered their guns and started without awaiting any organized movement. Killingly's stock of powder was stored in the meeting house, under the charge of Hezekiah Cutler, who had left orders that each volunteer should be furnished with a half pound; and the house was thronged all day with squads of men coming in to receive their portion before starting on their self directed march for Cambridge.

On Saturday fifteen companies gathered at Pomfret, the place agreed upon as the rendezvous for the Windham county volunteers. There the officers were entertained for the night by Mr. Ebenezer Grosvenor, and the men bivouacked where it was most

convenient for them. More than a thousand men had offered themselves. On Sunday morning they attended prayers led by Reverend Mr. Putnam, after which a letter from Colonel Putnam at Cambridge was read, and regimental orders were received from Colonel Elderkin. A council of officers being held, it was decided that only one-fifth of the men present should be sent forward, and that the remainder should return to their homes. The whole Ashford company, consisting of seventy-eight men under Captain Thomas Knowlton, a large number from Pomfret under Captain Ingalls, with a few selected from the other companies present, were taken. These, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Storrs, marched that afternoon to Woodstock, where, at Moulton's tavern, they passed the night. Next morning they moved forward, Lieutenant Colonel Storrs proceeding with them as far as Dudley, when he left them to pursue their way under charge of Major Brown and Captain Knowlton. Their orderly and soldierly bearing attracted great attention on their march, and they were received at Cambridge with special distinction as the first trained companies that had come from outside her limits to the aid of Massachusetts. Thus Windham county for the second time gained the honor of being first to respond with aid to the needs of Boston—the first instance being the forwarding of a flock of sheep when the port was officially closed, mention of which has already been made.

Other companies were soon called for, and followed on as rapidly as the circumstances would permit. Besides troops of horse, of which each town contributed its proportion, Woodstock sent 140 men, under Captains Benjamin and Daniel Lyon, Ephraim Manning, Nathaniel Marcy, and Lieutenant Mark Elwell; Windham 159 men, under Captains William Warner, James Stedman, John Kingsley and Lieutenant Melatiah Bingham; Canterbury 70 men, under Captains Aaron Cleveland, Joseph Burgess and Sherebiah Butts; Ashford 78 men, under Captain Thomas Knowlton; Pomfret 89 men, under Captain Zebulon Ingalls; Plainfield 54 men, under Captain Andrew Backus; Killingly 146 men, under Major William Danielson and Captains Joseph Cady and Joseph Elliott. The great regimental muster which had been planned for April was, by the logic of events, transferred from Windham Green to Cambridge. In some towns it is said that every able bodied man went to the scene of war, leaving the country at home so destitute of active life as to give it a quite desolate and deserted appearance.

The government of Connecticut now decided that one-fourth of the militia throughout the colony should be called out and equipped for the defense of the colony. They were to be formed into companies of one hundred men each, and all were comprised in six regiments. Israel Putnam was appointed second brigadier general of these troops. Under this regulation the Windham county men were mostly enrolled in the Third regiment, of which Putnam was colonel. The officers of these companies, as far as they belonged to the towns of present Windham, were as follows: Company 1—Israel Putnam, captain; Jonathan Kingsley, Scotland, first lieutenant; Thomas Grosvenor, Pomfret, second lieutenant; Elijah Loomis, ensign. Company 2—Experience Storrs, captain; James Dana, Ashford, first lieutenant; Ebenezer Gray, Windham, second lieutenant; Isaac Farwell, ensign. Company 4—Obediah Johnson, captain; Ephraim Lyon, first lieutenant; Wells Clift, second lieutenant; Isaac Hide, Jr., ensign; Lieutenant Clift of Windham, the others of Canterbury. Company 5—Thomas Knowlton, captain; Reuben Marcy, first lieutenant; John Keyes, second lieutenant; Daniel Allen, Jr., ensign; all of Ashford. Company 7—Ephraim Manning, captain; Stephen Lyon, first lieutenant; Asa Morris, second lieutenant; William Frizzell, ensign; all of Woodstock. Company 8—Joseph Elliott, captain; Benoni Cutler, first lieutenant; Daniel Waters, second lieutenant; Comfort Day, ensign; all of Killingly. Company 9—Ebenezer Mosely, captain; Stephen Brown, first lieutenant; Melatiah Bingham, second lieutenant; Nathaniel Wales, ensign; Brown of Pomfret, all the other officers and men from Windham. Company 10—Israel Putnam, Jr., captain; Samuel Robinson, Jr., first lieutenant; Amos Avery, second lieutenant; Caleb Stanley, ensign; all of Brooklyn.

Many who had gone out on the first alarm were mustered into this regiment without returning home. The men by whom Windham county was at this time represented in the colonial assembly were as follows: Windham—Colonel Jedidiah Elderkin, Ebenezer Devotion; Lebanon—Colonel William Williams, Jonathan Trumbull, Jr.; Mansfield—Lieutenant Colonel Experience Storrs, Nathaniel Atwood; Woodstock—Captain Elisha Child, Captain Samuel McClellan; Coventry—Captain Ebenezer Kingsbury, Jeremiah Ripley; Canterbury—David Paine, Elishib Adams; Killingly—Stephen Crosby, Eleazer Warren;

Pomfret—General Israel Putnam, Doctor Elisha Lord; Ashford—Captain Benjamin Sumner, Ichabod Ward; Plainfield—Captain James Bradford, William Robinson; Voluntown—Major James Gordon, Robert Hunter.

While the “bone and sinew” of the county was absent at the front, there was still left willing hands and active brains at home to work for the common cause at such labors as lay within their reach. And these were neither few nor insignificant; scarce a household that had not some concern with fitting out men and sending supplies to them. All private interests seem to have been laid aside that every thought and energy might be devoted to the common cause. Large bodies of men were now passing across the territory of Windham county, over the great thoroughfares, from the western and southern sections of the country to the seat of war. New taverns had to be opened along the way and largely increased facilities provided for the accommodation of these augmented numbers of travelers. The assembly offered bounties for the manufacture of fire arms and saltpetre. Hezekiah Huntington, of Windham, opened a shop at Willimantic for the repair and manufacture of fire arms, and John Brown carried on the manufacture of saltpetre in the same locality. Nathan Frink projected a similar establishment at Pomfret. Samuel Nott and Moses C. Welch devoted their mental energies to experiments with saltpetre and explosives. Colonel Elderkin and Nathaniel Wales, Jr., arranged for the construction of a powder mill.

The excitement of the hour and the reports of successful skirmishes with the enemy kept the people in high spirits. Hope and enthusiasm were inspired, and the prospects looked bright before the eyes of the Windham county patriots. When the battle of Bunker Hill passed into history, an honorable share of its glory fell to the credit of Windham county. Of the two hundred Connecticut men detailed under Captain Knowlton for special service on Bunker Hill on the evening of June 16th, 1775, one hundred and twenty were taken from the companies of this county, being drafted from the first, second, fourth and fifth companies. Thirty-two men were also drafted from Captain Chester's company, in the Second regiment, and probably a similar number from Captain Coit's company. These were the men who toiled all night and in the early morn upon Prescott's redoubt, banked with wet grass the famous rail fence, and, aided

by "Hampshire boys" under Stark, and Connecticut reinforcements led by Captains Chester, Clark, Coit, and Major Durkee, drove back from it again and again, with great slaughter, the serried columns of the advancing British, and saved the retreating garrison from capture or annihilation. Many incidents of the fight were carried home to Windham county. Josiah Cleveland, of Canterbury, kept guard through the night while the men were digging entrenchments, and heard the unsuspecting sentinels on the opposite shore pronounce their watch calls, "All's well!" Abijah Fuller, from Windham, helped Gridley draw the lines of the fortification on Breed's hill. Knowlton, in his shirt sleeves, walked before his breastwork, cheering his men and firing his own musket until it was wrenched from his grasp by a cannon ball, bending the barrel so as to render it useless. Lieutenant Dana was the first to detect the flank movement of the enemy, and having given the alarm, was the first to fire upon the advancing army. Lieutenant Grosvenor fired with the same precision and deliberation that he was accustomed to exercise in shooting a fox, and saw a man fall at each discharge of his piece. "Boys," said Putnam, to several veterans of the French war, as he passed them on the field, "do you remember my orders at Ticonderoga?" Promptly came the response, "You told us not to fire till we could see the whites of the enemy's eyes." "Well," said Putnam, "I give the same order now;" and most literally it was obeyed. Timothy Cleveland, of Canterbury, had the breech of his gun stock shot off when in full retreat, and exclaiming, "The darned British shall have no part of my gun," ran back and secured the broken piece in the very face of the advancing enemy. Putnam stood by a deserted field piece urging the retreating troops to make one more stand until the bayonets of the foe were almost upon him. Robert Hale, a saucy Ashford boy, discharged an artillery piece in the very teeth of the foe, and escaped unscathed. Abiel Bugbee, also of Ashford, was one who held his ground to the very last of the fight, throwing *stones* when his ammunition was expended. A few Windham county men were killed and several others more or less wounded in this engagement, but their loss was much lighter than that of many other sections. In recognition of Putnam's distinguished services he was immediately promoted to the rank of major general, fourth in command in the American army. Knowlton and Dana were also highly com-

mended, and soon afterward promoted, the former to the position of major and the latter to that of captain.

Other men than those mentioned went to the war from Windham county. These were in the Eighth regiment, of which Jedidiah Huntington, of Norwich, was colonel; John Douglas, of Plainfield, lieutenant colonel; Reverend John Fuller, of Plainfield, chaplain; Dr. Elisha Perkins, of the same town, surgeon; and Albigence Waldo, of Pomfret, assistant. A company of Canterbury militia, under Captain Ephraim Lyon, was sent to Norwich in August, upon an alarm occasioned "by vessels prowling about the Sound," and were retained to build a battery or redoubt at Waterman's Point. Ephraim Squier, of Ashford, with Simeon Tyler and Asa Davison, probably of Brooklyn, left their companies at Cambridge in September to join in the northern expedition of Colonel Benedict Arnold, but after suffering incredible hardships on their journey up the Kennebec and through the wilderness of Maine, they were among those who were ordered home again; and after ten weeks' absence they arrived in Cambridge on Thanksgiving day, November 23d, as the account says, "abundantly satisfied."

Everybody at home during this period was engaged in doing double duty, in farm work, gathering up supplies, or manufacturing military munitions. Town and county civil affairs were almost forgotten. All thoughts and energies were absorbed in the war. The county court met in June, 1775, and licensed some fifty taverns, granted executions in a few cases, and adjourned. The arts of preparing munitions of war had made some progress here. Hezekiah Huntington had wrought to such good purpose as to receive from the treasury of the colony in the autumn a bounty of thirteen pounds "for fifty-two guns well made and wrought," besides repairing and refitting great numbers of old guns. Timothy Larrabee assured the assembly that he had applied himself to making saltpetre, and had succeeded in mastering the art, which he claimed could be carried on as well in the colonies as elsewhere in the world.

The Windham soldiers chafed under the restraints of camp life during the long period of inaction which followed the battle of Bunker Hill. Forty of them marched home about the time of the expiration of their term of enlistment, without waiting to be discharged, ignorant of the fact that by so doing they were liable to be treated as deserters. Washington sent for

them, but Governor Trumbull, better understanding their motives, refused to give them up. The same men, however, re-enlisted soon after, and served in many subsequent campaigns with honor and fidelity.

The majority of Putnam's regiment are believed to have remained upon the field, re-enlisting in the Twentieth regiment of the continental army. Of this regiment Benedict Arnold was appointed colonel; John Durkee, of Norwich, lieutenant colonel; Thomas Knowlton, major. Its companies were officered as follows: Company 1, Ephraim Manning, captain; Nathaniel Webb, lieutenant; — Brown, ensign. Company 2, Jedidiah Waterman, captain; John Waterman, lieutenant; Walter Clark, ensign. Company 3, Thomas Dyer, captain; Daniel Tilden, first lieutenant; Nehemiah Holt, second lieutenant; Joseph Durkee, ensign. Company 4, Wells Clift, captain. Company 5, Thomas Grosvenor, captain; Joseph Cleveland, ensign. Company 6, Stephen Brown, captain. Company 7, John Keyes, captain. Company 8, John Robinson, captain. Other subalterns, whose companies cannot now be determined, were Lieutenants Melatiah Bingham, William Adams, Beriah Bill, Robert Hallam, Samuel Brown, Seth Phelps, Josiah Fuller, Nathaniel Bishop, James Holt, Daniel Putnam and Ensigns Briant Brown, Silas Goodell and John Buel. The chaplain of the regiment was Reverend Abiel Leonard; quartermaster, Lieutenant Ebenezer Gray; surgeon, Doctor John Spaulding; assistant surgeon, Luther Waterman. This regiment formed a part of the central division of the army, and thus in position became a sort of body guard to the commander-in-chief. The continued absence of Arnold left it in charge of Durkee and Knowlton, under whose efficient training it attained the same enviable position as to discipline and soldierly deportment that Knowlton's own company had previously held. Other Windham county soldiers re-enlisted in Huntington's and Patterson's regiments, and a still larger number in a militia regiment sent to Boston early in January, to take the place of those whose term of service had expired. Of this regiment John Douglas, of Plainfield, was colonel; Doctor Elisha Perkins, surgeon; Thomas Gray, assistant surgeon; and Reverend John Fuller, chaplain.

The withdrawal of the British troops from Boston to New York in 1776, inspired the Windham patriots with new courage and enthusiasm, and stimulated them to greater activity in prep-

arations for the summer campaign. The powder mill at Willimantic was now under full headway, sending out large supplies to the continental army. All the saltpetre which could by any method be fabricated was quickly swallowed up by this important establishment, which was guarded day and night at the expense of the government. Black lead for its consumption was taken from the hills of Union. So great was the throng of people and teams resorting thither that David Young was ordered to open a house of public entertainment in its vicinity. Travel was also greatly increased by the passage of many regiments and long trains of military stores through the county on the way from Boston and the east to the seat of war at New York. Demands for supplies called out the utmost energies of the people. Commissaries and jobbers were scouring the towns for provisions, taking off all the pork, beef and sheep that could be spared from home consumption. Selectmen were now making requisitions for scales, clock weights, anything that could be transformed into ammunition. Orders for knit stockings, tow cloth for tents, and home-made shirtings and vestings kept thousands of nimble fingers at work. Great quantities of military stores were lodged in Plainfield, Windham and Canterbury. Depots were constructed for their reception, and carefully guarded, and teams were constantly occupied hauling them to and fro. A large number of prisoners, dangerous Tories, captured seamen and soldiers, confined in Windham jail and neighboring towns, required much care and attention.

On the 1st of August, Trumbull issued a special circular begging for more recruits at the earliest moment. The call was sent to every town, and read from many pulpits at the close of service. Windham county responded with her usual promptitude and spirit. Many were enlisted in the First regiment, of which Andrew Ward was colonel; Obadiah Johnson lieutenant colonel, and William Douglas major. James Stedman, Nathaniel Wales, 3d, Waterman Clift, Daniel Allen, Jonathan Nichols, Jr., James Dana, Elijah Sharp, James Arnold, Benoni Cutler, William Manning, Joseph Durkee and Obadiah Child were officers in this regiment. Reverend Benjamin Trumbull, the historian of Connecticut, was chaplain, and Royal Flint, of Windham, paymaster. The seventh company of the first batallion sent to the relief of the northern department was from Windham county. Of this company Vine Elderkin was captain, Wil-

liam Frizzell first lieutenant, Abner Robinson second lieutenant and Lemuel Grosvenor ensign. In the third battalion, raised for service in New York, Comfort Sage, colonel: Company 1 was from Lebanon, James Clark, captain. Company 3 from Voluntown, John Dixon, captain. Company 5, from Killingly, Stephen Crosby, captain; Josiah Robbins, first lieutenant; Jonathan Buck, second lieutenant; Sylvanus Perry, ensign. The sixth battalion, Colonel John Chester, contained at least three Windham county companies: Company 4 from Ashford, Reuben Marcy, captain; John Holmes, first lieutenant; Samuel Marcy, second lieutenant; Daniel Knowlton, ensign, and 79 privates; Company 5 from Woodstock, Stephen Lyon, captain; Josiah Child, first lieutenant; and Company 6 from Canterbury, Asa Baker, captain; Abner Bacon, first lieutenant; Aaron Cleveland, ensign.

At the disastrous battle of Long Island in August, 1776, Windham county men in the line suffered severely. More than a hundred and fifty officers and privates were missing from Huntington's regiment alone. Several men from Pomfret were killed, and others taken prisoners, among whom was Surgeon David Holmes. Durkee's and Chandler's regiments were detailed by Washington to cover the retreat from Long Island to New York. Knowlton, whose sterling qualities had made him a conspicuous figure and promised to secure his rapid promotion to the highest military honors, fell on the field at Harlem on the 16th of September, and was buried there on the following day, amid impressive martial ceremonies, and deeply mourned by all his comrades and soldiers. In the engagements which attended the gradual falling back of the American forces up into Westchester and across into New Jersey many sons of Windham fell. The militia regiments of the county were repeatedly called on to go to the defense of some point where it was expected the British were intending to make an attack. When Rhode Island was threatened, the Fifth, under Major Thomas Brown and the Eleventh under Major Samuel McClellan and the troops of horse under Major Backus started for the scene, but before they reached there Newport and its surroundings were seized by a strong body of British and fortified against the militia. During the autumn additional recruits were enlisted in the continental army, and the militia was re-organized in six brigades. The Windham county regiments were included in the Fifth brigade,

of which Eliphalet Dyer was made the general. He soon after resigned the appointment, and John Douglas was appointed in his stead. William Danielson, of Killingly, was now appointed colonel of the Eleventh regiment, and Samuel McClellan lieutenant colonel. Company officers were as follows: Company 1, Daniel Lyon, captain; Benjamin Ruggles, lieutenant; Nathaniel Brown, ensign. Company 2, Caleb Clark, captain; John Wells, lieutenant; Stephen Griggs, ensign. Company 3, Amos Paine, captain; Thomas Baker, lieutenant; William Lyon, ensign. Company 4, Joseph Cady, captain; Jonathan Cady, lieutenant; Elisha Lawrence, ensign. Company 5, Ephraim Warren, captain; Daniel Waters, lieutenant. Company 6, Stephen Tucker, lieutenant; Phinehas Walker, ensign. Company 7, Paine Converse, lieutenant. Company 8, Zebulon Ingalls, captain; William Osgood, lieutenant; Robert Sharpe, ensign. Company 9, John Green, captain; Obadiah Clough, lieutenant; Daniel Larned, ensign. Company 10, Jonathan Morris, lieutenant; Richard Peabody, ensign. Company 11, Samuel Chandler, captain; John Holbrook, lieutenant; John Whitmore, ensign.

During the autumn of 1776 Windham county was interested in fitting out at Norwich the schooner "Oliver Cromwell" for privateer service. This vessel had been built at Essex, Conn., by Uriah Hayden, during the previous year. She was built for the colony of Connecticut, and furnished with twenty-four guns. She was afterward presented to the general government, being one of the first if not *the* first gunboat ever owned by the United States as a nation. At the time of her fitting out at Norwich William Coit of that town was her captain, and among the crew were Phinehas Cary, Solomon Lord, Eleazer Welsh, Eleazer Spofford, Lemuel Stoddard, Hezekiah Abbe and Arad Simmons, of Windham, and Thomas Holbrook, of Lebanon. Doctor Samuel Lee, of Windham, was appointed surgeon on board, but was soon after succeeded by Doctor Albigeance Waldo. Doctor Lee, with Doctors John Clark, Elisha Lord and James Cogswell, and other physicians from different parts of the state were made a committee for examining persons who offered themselves for the army.

The spring of 1777 found the citizens of Windham county preparing themselves for the long continued war which was now in prospect. Again meeting and deliberating in their public town meetings, which had been almost suspended during the two

previous years, they prepared to meet the demands which fell upon them to furnish recruits for the army, bounties for soldiers and provision for their families in their absence. The depreciation of the currency and the increased price of the necessities of life, the scarcity of breadstuffs and salt, were among the important questions with which they had to deal. The citizens were required to take the oath of allegiance to the state. Committees were appointed by the towns to provide for their public needs and to confer with similar committees from other towns in regard to questions of common interest.

The Windham County Association of Ministers now gave voice to their sentiments in regard to the general situation as follows: "Considering the peculiar circumstances of our land during the present calamities of war, wherewith the holy and righteous God is pleased to exercise us; the decline of religion and prevalence of iniquity; think it our duty to stir up ourselves and the people of our charge to additional attention to our duties, and propose to General Association to recommend professors of religion to renew their covenant with God that family religion and order might be maintained." A committee was appointed to prepare a suitable address which was published, and a thousand copies of it were distributed among the twenty parishes of Windham county.

In the early part of the year 1777 the second company of the Fourth Regiment of Light Horse was reorganized with Perley Howe of Killingly, captain, Asa Wilder, lieutenant, Stephen Tucker, cornet and Davis Flint quartermaster. Some enterprising citizens of Brooklyn having offered to furnish three or four light field pieces, fitted for service, Daniel Tyler, Jr., and thirty-five others formed an independent matross company, subject only to be commanded by the commander in chief or either of the major or brigadier generals of the state of Connecticut. Arrangements for the manufacture of saltpetre and powder were now so far perfected that ammunition was more plenty. Private individuals in every town were engaged in the manufacture of saltpetre, and this work had become so general that the powder mill at Willimantic received from the towns of the county 42,666 pounds of it during the three months ending with February. This was received in various lots, ranging in quantity from twenty up to nine hundred pounds. Eight hundred and eighty-one pounds of scale and clock weights, shot and bar

lead were also reported as received at the mill. The recruits of Windham were scattered among the various departments of the continental army and at the scenes of conflict in different quarters, sustaining losses here and there as might be expected. Captain Stephen Brown, of Pomfret, successor of Knowlton in command, was instantly killed by a shot from a ship while gallantly defending Fort Mifflin. Captain Daniel Clark was killed in battle at Stillwater, September 19th. Chaplains Fuller and Leonard also died. Mrs. Putnam died in the hands of the enemy as a prisoner of war. Colonel William Douglas died during this year. These losses of some of the most prominent of Windham's patriots caused great depression of the public spirits. To add to their discouragement the powder mill at Willimantic blew up, killing one man and destroying valuable machinery and material. This occurred on the 13th of December. Then followed the winter of 1777-78, when the patriots of Washington's army were suffering memorable hardships at Valley Forge. Windham shared in the depression which affected the whole country in that dark hour. The people had spent their means and energies in the common cause, and were reduced to a condition of extreme want. However, they managed to hold up their hands and to meet the demands of the country upon them, both in the matter of supplying their quotas of men and in contributing means to sustain the patriot cause. The Articles of Confederation recommended by the congress were approved and formally adopted.

In the spring of 1778 prompt and liberal provision was made by all the towns for raising their respective quotas, and bounties were accordingly offered as liberally as the means of the people would warrant. The outlook was more encouraging. Favorable news from France revived the spirits of the downhearted patriots, and soldiers went out again with hopeful hearts, while the people at home labored with new courage, hoping that brighter days were at hand.

But while the national skies seemed brightening over their heads, a new source of grief called for their deepest mourning. Rumors of the terrible Indian descent and massacre in the Wyoming Valley came to them like the bursting of a thunder storm from a fair morning sky. Among the many of the sons of Windham county who had been most barbarously tortured and butchered were Robert Durkee, Robert Jameson, Anderson Dana,

George Dorrance, James Bidlack, Thomas and Stephen Fuller, Stephen Whiton, John Abbot, Samuel Ransom, Elisha Williams, Timothy Pierce and John Perkins. Their homes had been burned, their farms ravaged, and their families taken prisoners or driven out naked and starving into the wilderness. Aged fathers and mothers here waited in harrowing suspense to hear from their lost children, and after many anxious days received the remnants of these stricken families as one by one they found their way back to the old hearthstone. Among the many instances of suffering arising from this calamity, the brief records of a few have been preserved. Mrs. John Abbot and Mrs. Thomas Fuller, each with nine children and utterly destitute, begged their way back as best they could to their Windham homes. Mrs. Stephen Fuller came on horseback, with her little daughter Polly. Mrs. Anderson Dana, with her widowed daughter, Mrs. Whiton, who had been married but a few weeks, and six younger children, toiled back to Ashford, bringing with her what she could save of the valuable papers belonging to her husband. Mrs. Elisha Williams left on that field of carnage her husband, two promising sons, and a daughter's husband, and with her five surviving children sought refuge at her father's house in Canterbury. Mrs. Esther Minor Yorke, with her twelve children, barefoot and starving, after many months had passed and they had been given up for lost, reached her old home in Voluntown, having with great difficulty escaped from their Indian captors and accomplished the perilous journey, the baby dying on the way from cold and exposure. Another hunted fugitive, Rufus Baldwin, arrived at about the same time from Newport, New York, where he had killed an Indian and was obliged to flee for his life, traveling through the wilderness to Canterbury with only a chunk of raw salt pork in his pocket to subsist upon.

In the attempt made by Sullivan and the French fleet under D'Estaing, August 10th, 1778, to recapture Newport, the militia of Windham county had a part, and several of them were killed and others wounded. Others suffered from exposure to the severe storm which prevailed at that time and contributed so much to the failure of the enterprise. Requisition was made by Governor Trumbull upon Ebenezer Devotion, of Scotland Parish, for one hundred barrels of musket powder.

The attempt to recapture Newport was unsuccessful and the prospects of American independence were shrouded with doubt. And with little improvement of the situation time wore on. The people all over the land were weary, depressed and discouraged. Their property was becoming worthless and the comforts and even necessities of life almost unattainable. Other factors helped to make the situation still more discouraging. There was demoralization, degeneration and defection. Young men came back wrecked in health and character, dissolute in habit, and infidel in principle. Even Windham county, with all its self-sacrificing and almost unanimous patriotism, was not without its ARNOLD. Nathan Frink, a successful lawyer, seeing no hope of future success on the patriot side, left home and friends and offered himself and his services to the British commander in New York, causing overwhelming sorrow, shame and resentment among his family and friends, and bringing the gray hairs of his father indeed "with sorrow to the grave." Even among those who claimed to be patriots there were things that caused sadness and discouragement. Selfishness prompted men to keep back their goods for a price, though they knew their soldiers were starving and naked. The brief sessions of the county court were chiefly occupied with hearing complaints against various people for selling cattle and swine at foreign markets or for unauthorized prices, and for other breaches of wholesome laws made to encourage fair dealing and restrain and punish sharpers and oppressors.

Yet in the face of all these discouragements and difficulties, Windham county continued steadfast, trusting in the justice of the patriot cause and in that Providence which had so wonderfully led and sustained the people of America. In darkest days she stood firm and unwavering, striving with unceasing diligence to strengthen the hands of government and carry forward the war. Year after year the towns taxed themselves heavily to pay bounties, furnish clothing, and provide for the families of the soldiers. General Douglas, of Plainfield, Colonels Williams, Danielson and Johnson, though now advanced in years, led the militia many times on alarm of danger, and Major Backus time after time hurried his troops of horse to the relief of New London and Rhode Island. McClellan not only served almost continuously in the field, but paid his regiment out of his own pocket when the public treasury was empty. General Douglas,

Colonel Johnson, Major Ripley, Commissary Waldo, and indeed very many of those leading men who had money at command, advanced it repeatedly to pay off bounties or to fit out expeditions.

Men went out to battle and council and provide for public demands, and the women labored as efficiently in their own special fields of action and usefulness. The burdens and distresses of the war fell very heavily upon them. They sent out husbands, brothers and sons to the battle field, and then labored heroically to fill their places at home. Farm work was added to their ordinary domestic duties. They had to take care of their stock as well as of their children, to plant and reap as well as to spin and weave, to cure herbs for their own tea, and manufacture their molasses out of corn stalks. These various demands upon them stimulated ingenuity, so that whatever the call they were ready to meet it.

With such support and sympathy from town and fireside the soldiers sent out from Windham county could hardly fail to do her honor. Their early reputation for courage and good conduct was abundantly sustained. Many who had sallied out at the first cry from Lexington remained in service throughout the war. The officers of Putnam's first regiment, the Connecticut Third, of 1775, thus served with but few exceptions. Lieutenant Thomas Grosvenor went on from rank to rank, succeeding Durkee in command when that valiant leader was compelled by ill health to retire from active service. Lieutenant Ebenezer Gray served the whole seven years, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel. Captain Mosely was often called to command the militia in special service at Rhode Island or New London. Captains Dana, Clark, Cleft and Manning, and Lieutenants Daniel Marcy, John Keyes, Daniel Allen, John Adams, Melatiah Bingham, Benoni Cutler, Josiah Cleveland, Nathaniel Webb, William and Stephen Lyon served with distinction through successive campaigns, and were honored by various promotions.

The system of enrollment at that time was so confused and imperfect that it would be impossible to learn the whole number sent out from any section, and very difficult to form even an approximate estimate. It appears, however, certain that the several towns of Windham county fulfilled every requisition for continental or militia service. The burden of the war was borne by the whole population, and a complete muster-roll of Wind-

ham's revolutionary soldiers would probably include the name of nearly every family in the county, while many families sent very large representations. It is said that seventeen cousins by the name of Fuller were in the service from Windham's Second Society. The Adamses and Clevelands were almost without number. Peter Adams, of Brooklyn, and Ephraim Fisk, of Killingly, each had six sons in the army, and Barzillai Fisher and Lusher Gay each had four.

A notable feature of the later years of the war was the number of very young men, lads of fourteen and upwards, who enlisted if permitted to do so, or attached themselves to some popular officer. Samuel Calvin Adams, of Canterbury, not then quite fourteen years of age, waited upon Captain Aaron Cleveland at the time of Governor Tryon's assault upon Horse-Neck, and saw General Putnam plunge down the steep bluff, while the bullets of the baffled dragoons were whizzing around him and some even passing through his hat. William Eaton of Woodstock, at the age of sixteen ran away from home to join the army, and prevailed upon Captain Dana to receive him as his servant. John Pettengill, of Windham, enlisted at fourteen and served till the close of the war under the same popular leader. Levi Bingham, of Windham, entered the service at fifteen. Daniel Waldo, at seventeen served a month under Captain William Howard at New London, and then enlisted under Captain Nathaniel Wales for continental service. Many a household was forced reluctantly to part with even its Benjamin. Laban, the youngest son of Barzillai Fisher, appeared before his aunt one morning at daylight with a gun upon his shoulder. "O, Laban, you are not going!" besought his distressed aunt. "Yes," he answered cheerily, "but don't tell father," and off he went to suffer and die in the Jersey prison ship.

After the removal of the seat of war to the Southern states Windham had less occasion for active participation, though still called to raise her quota of men and supplies for protection of the state and continental service. Of fifteen hundred men raised by Connecticut in May, 1780, for six months' continental service the quotas of the towns of Windham were as follows: Ashford, 17; Canterbury, 9; Coventry, 18; Killingly, 37; Lebanon, 36; Mansfield, 20; Plainfield, 16; Pomfret, 25; Union, 6; Voluntown, 17; Windham 34, and Woodstock 20. The towns at once made provision for enlisting these men, but before it was ac-

completed a thousand men were called for to serve for three years. Windham offered £20 in money, equal to wheat at five shillings a bushel, as a bounty for recruits. In December she offered £12 in silver money as a bounty for the first year and £9 silver for each succeeding year. Plainfield offered £100 to any five men who would enlist for three years. Other towns were equally generous in offering bounties, and the quotas were filled without resorting to a draft.

Notwithstanding the continued demand for men, money and supplies, and the little apparent progress made by the continental arms, the prospects were brightening. La Fayette had returned full of hope and courage. France was taking part in favor of American liberty more decidedly and heartily. The marching of Gates and his division through Plainfield, Canterbury and Windham on their withdrawal from Newport, the quartering of the French Huzzars at Windham for a week and at Lebanon through the winter of 1780-81, gave new life and stimulus, and encouraged the people to hope for better days. In 1781 the patriots of Windham, eagerly watching the signs of the times, heard dim rumors of more fleets and troops on the way from France, and treasure to the amount of fifteen tons of silver in French hornpipes; and in June they were treated to the sight of Rochambeau's grand army as it marched from Newport to Hartford. "Magnificent in appearance, superb in discipline," with banners and music, it passed in four divisions through the county. The major part took the great highway through Voluntown, Plainfield, Canterbury and Windham, where all the country people from far and wide flocked to the Providence road to see the brave array pass by. Barrack masters appointed by the governor and his council met them at every stopping place and provided suitable accommodations. A hundred eager school boys in Plainfield village gave them vociferous welcome. In Windham they encamped for a day or two, where they were visited by all the leading patriots. It is supposed that one of these divisions took the more northerly route to Hartford, through Killingly, Pomfret and Ashford. Tradition confidently asserts the passing of the French army through these towns, and points out the very place of their encampment in Abington. The accompanying tradition that Washington and La Fayette were with the army appears hardly probable, as the latter was with the southern forces in June, 1781, at which time the army

is supposed to have passed through here. It seems more probable that the visit of the two generals was at some other time, perhaps after the cessation of hostilities. They are reported to have passed a night at Grosvenor's, in Pomfret, waited for breakfast at the hearth-stone of the Randall house in Abington, and spent another night at Clark's tavern in Ashford, where their names are still to be seen upon an antique window pane.

April 19th, 1783, Washington announced the cessation of hostilities. We hear but little of festivities and noisy demonstrations of rejoicing on the reception of this welcome tidings. The joy of the citizens of Windham county was perhaps too deep for such expression. It had been a long, hard, earnest struggle—one that involved questions of life and death. Many precious lives had been sacrificed. There had been great expenditure of money and forces; there were hard problems still to face; and so the rejoicings were mostly expressed by religious solemnities. As the people repaired to the sanctuary when they sent out the first soldiers to the war, so when the war closed and the soldiers returned, they again found their way to the house of God to give expression to the mingled feelings which must have filled their bosoms. It may have been difficult indeed to discern the noise of the shout of joy from that of the weeping of the people, for in the galleries and in the great pews, there were many vacant places. The aged deacons who sat beneath the pulpit had laid their precious sons upon the altar. There were other parents there whose sons had been stricken; there were widows bowed with grief; there were children who were fatherless; there were fair young girls whose hearts still yearned for missing lover and brother, and thanks for the great blessings of peace and independence were hallowed by a deep consciousness of the great price that had been paid for them.

With the close of the war and the return of peace the attention of the people was turned to the question of organizing society anew and resuming the ordinary labors and habits of a time of peace. The citizens of Windham county went vigorously to work, adapting themselves to the new social and political conditions with which the establishment of a new form of government surrounded them. One of the first things to be done was to rid society of the few tories which infested it. No formal process of ejection was served upon them, but somehow they were given to understand that they would be no longer tolerated here, and

it appears that they heeded the admonitions of the situation. The principles of the modern "boycott" were applied to them. The Sons of Liberty had ordered that no mills should grind for a tory, and that no merchant should sell goods to one of that class. By various means the lives of tories were made so uncomfortable here that most of them preferred to leave the county rather than endure the conditions of remaining. A few were among that notable band of refugees who left New York in September, 1783, to seek new homes in Nova Scotia. Only a few remained and suffered the partial sacrifice of their property by confiscation.

Now arose a voice of complaint which, though raised before, had been stifled amid the confusion of louder calls upon the public ear, but now sounded with more distinct and conspicuous force. This voice of complaint came from the soldiers who had fought the battles of the revolution and had returned without satisfactory pay for their services. Some had received no pay at all, while others who were nominally paid received their pay in scrip which was little better than worthless. So thoroughly demoralized were the finances of the country, and to such an extent had the continental currency depreciated that a hundred dollars of it would hardly buy a meal's victuals. With such a low condition of the circulating medium it is easy to see what extremes of injustice might result to those who had loaned money or entered into contracts when the nominal unit of value was fifty or a hundred fold greater than it was at this time and they were compelled to receive pay in the depreciated currency.

Various attempts were now made to organize other towns, and one even to organize a new county, but nothing was effected except that the towns of Union and Coventry were withdrawn from this county to become parts of the newly formed county of Tolland, which was organized by act of general assembly in 1786.

The consideration of the new constitution of the United States now involved much of the attention of the people. Public opinion was at first greatly divided in regard to it. In November, 1787, the towns of the county were instructing their delegates in the general assembly in regard to it. The proposed document was publicly read and warmly debated in the several towns, assembled for the purpose. By many it was looked upon with suspicion, as calculated to rob their state of its rights and

give too much power to the general government. But the counsels of wisdom prevailed and most of the towns accepted the constitution, though Pomfret, Woodstock, Mansfield and one of the Lebanon delegates withheld their consent. The great majority of the people of the county, however, approved of the action of the state convention in adopting the constitution and the final result was ratified with general rejoicings. At the convention which assembled at Hartford January 3d, 1788, adopting the constitution, Windham county was represented by the following delegates: Windham—Eliphalet Dyer and Jedidiah Elderkin; Canterbury—Asa Witter and Moses Cleveland; Ashford—Simeon Smith and Hendrick Dow; Woodstock—Stephen Paine and Timothy Perrin; Thompson—Daniel Larned; Killingly—Sampson Howe and William Danielson; Pomfret—Jonathan Randall and Simon Cotton; Brooklyn—Seth Paine; Plainfield—James Bradford and Joshua Dunlap; Voluntown—Moses Campbell and Benjamin Dow; Lebanon—William Williams and Ephraim Carpenter; Mansfield—Constant Southworth and Nathaniel Atwood.

CHAPTER VII.

WINDHAM COUNTY UNDER THE CONSTITUTION.

Progress after the War.—Immigration and Commercial Enterprise.—The lot of the Farmers.—Moral and Religious Declension.—Slavery disappearing.—Remnants of Indian Tribes.—Educational Interests.—Teachers.—Newspapers.—Social Conditions.—Domestic Customs.—Manufacturing Enterprises begin.—The War of 1812.—Party Spirit.—Revival of the Patriotic Spirit.—Recruiting.—Organization of Troops.—First Summons to Arms, June 21st, 1813.—Another Call in September.—To Relief of New London, August 9th, 1814.—On Guard at Stonington.—Peace restored, 1815.—Appropriate Celebrations of the Event.

PASSING over a period of about twenty-five years, we pause to look again at the condition of the people of Windham county, and to note the changes that have been made in the course of that time as the citizens went forward with the work of building up a prosperity which should in after years make them strong and vigorous of muscle, means and principle to maintain the contests into which subsequent years were to bring them. We find that the twenty-five years was a period of growth and advancement, though the outflow of population to newer parts of our vast country had somewhat checked the increase of population. The census of 1800 showed a gain of only 728 since 1774 and an actual loss of 699 since 1790. Business enterprise, however, had been stimulated by the opening of new avenues of trade, turnpike roads and mechanical inventions. Several business firms traded directly with the West Indies, owning their vessels and buying up surplus produce here, thus enriching themselves and at the same time greatly benefiting the farming interests of many of these towns. Other towns, in which the facilities for farming were fewer, had turned their attention to manufacturing. Keen eyes watched with eager interest the various attempts now made to supersede by machinery the slow and painful processes of hand labor. Machines for carding wool were brought into the county as early as 1806. The manufacture of paper, potash, pottery, bricks, boots, shoes

and hats was carried on to a considerable extent. At that time, however, wealth had not begun to roll into the laps of the favored ones in such masses as has been seen in later times. Money making as a fine art was probably not the absorbing theme of the minds of that time. Rich men were few. The farmer who owned land free from incumbrance, professional men and traders might indeed secure a competence, but it is doubtful if a majority of the population could do much more than make a scanty livelihood. Children were numerous, trades few and wages low. Three shillings a day, paid in produce, was the common price for farm laborers, and a workingwoman would drudge through the week for two and sixpence. Ten dollars a month for a schoolmaster and five shillings a week for a schoolma'am were deemed ample wages. Young men roved about in spring, swingling flax and tow on shares and picking up such odd jobs as they could find. Young men found it very difficult to make their way in the world, and it was only after years of hard, self-sacrificing labor that they could save enough to stock a farm, even in the most meagre manner. Clothing was expensive, and partly owing to this fact and partly owing to the more favorable fact that it was durable in those days, it was common for a good suit of clothes to be worn almost a life time, and until men could be distinguished as far as the eye could see them by the well known peculiarity of some feature of their clothing.

In morals, there had appeared at the beginning of this period a marked deterioration. Rum was used without stint; Sabbath-breaking, profanity and loose living were increasingly prevalent. But there was now evidence of a turn in the tide. The immediate effects of the war, always demoralizing, were being obliterated, and the public mind was awaking to a sense of its condition. Intemperance in drinking intoxicants was denounced, and plans were discussed for the suppression of vice and immoralities. The evils of rum drinking were set forth by printed publications intended to arrest the attention of the thoughtful and instruct the young to avoid the snare of the drinking habit. A religious revival had preceded this attempted reformation in morals. Methodism had done a good work in reaching a class removed from religious and restraining influences, and the ministry at large was awaking more and more to the demands of the hour and striving to arouse the churches to

a higher sense of individual responsibility and a more general co-operation in aggressive Christian labor. There were in the county in 1806, about forty religious societies, each having a church organization and a place of worship. Of these, twenty were Congregational, thirteen Baptist, four Methodist, two Separate, and one Episcopal.

In accordance with the statutes of 1783, forbidding the importation of slaves and providing for the gradual emancipation of slave children, the institution had nearly died out. Uncongenial as it was with the spirit of society here, it died almost unnoticed, of its own spontaneous decay. Negroes who had served during the revolution generally received their freedom at that time. Many born in slavery were manumitted by their owners. The old house servants were generally retained for life, and were comfortably supported. Many of the younger negroes sought employment in the large towns.

The aboriginal inhabitants also were fast disappearing. Remnants of ancient tribes might still be found on reservations in Woodstock and Brooklyn, as alien from the people around them as if they belonged to another order of beings. Almost every town had its one Indian family, familiar to all, and regarded as a sort of common charge. A few wandering Indians with no fixed home roved about from town to town, extorting tribute of food and cider. Noah Uncas, Little Olive, Eunice Squib and Hannah Leathercoat were familiar figures of this class, grim, gaunt and taciturn, stalking in single file along highway or turnpike. Mohegans still made their annual pilgrimages up the Quinebaug. These various representatives of a fallen dynasty were usually treated with kindness and consideration, strongly seasoned, however, with contempt, the Indian of that period holding much the same position as the negro of a later period.

The educational interests were, at the time of which we speak, receiving more intelligent consideration. Public schools had received a new impulse from the creation of the school fund and more stringent supervision. The district system was more fully carried out, bringing a school within the reach of every family, and schools were maintained with greater regularity and efficiency. But the ordinary school house was yet very rude and primitive. A typical house of this class has been described by a man who knew it as a boy, as follows: "It was a wooden building about twenty feet square, underpinned at the four

corners with common stones. It was boarded, clapboarded, the roof shingled, and an outer door, no porch or entry, at the south-east corner. It had a loose floor made of unplanned boards, and a ceiling of the same, a chimney in one corner built of rough stone. There was a long writing table, reaching across one side and one end of the room, and the scholars sat on both sides of the table, facing each other. They had no desks or drawers, nothing of the kind. The idea of being comfortable there never entered our minds. While we wrote, our ink would freeze in our pens, so that we were frequently obliged to hold them up to our mouths and thaw it with our breaths."

The standard of qualifications of teachers was low, compared with that of the present time, the range of subjects being mainly reading, writing, arithmetic, sewing and the catechism; the price paid teachers was correspondingly low; but the results show that they were more efficient in securing the vital objects of public education than the popular voice of the present boasting age would permit us to believe. The brightest and most capable young men generally secured the position of teachers, and the energy of their youthful blood sustained the enthusiasm of their minds and inspired their younger charges to the most effective mental achievements. The few subjects taught were thoroughly learned, and often a thirst for investigation and further knowledge was excited which found gratification in the solid, standard works to be found in the different town libraries. Increasing interest in education was manifested in the establishment of academies and high schools and the multiplication of these useful libraries.

The people of Windham county were among the foremost in recognizing the value of the newspaper as a popular educator. When we speak of the newspaper as a popular educator we mean the newspaper of that time and the class of later times that are aiming to elevate mankind by wholesome teachings and profitable intelligence—not the indiscriminate newspaper which daily or weekly throws to its readers a mass of the slimiest filth that it dare put in print, or at best the most worthless literary froth which its hireling writers can spin out. While other localities similarly circumstanced in most other respects were counting their newspaper subscribers by twos or threes, the towns of this county were counting theirs by scores. For example, in 1778, Joseph Carter, of Canterbury, a post-rider,

carried the *Hartford Gazette* to twenty-five families in Scotland parish, to forty-three in Westminster parish, and to forty-five in the First Society of Canterbury. The Providence papers were also widely circulated, and the *Windham Herald* had twelve hundred subscribers early in the present century. Almost every town had its "newspaper class," neighbors joining together that they might have a larger variety.

The social conditions of that time have so completely passed away that the historian must in justice review them to prevent the memory of them entirely passing from the knowledge of men. The great kitchen, with its log fire in the huge chimney, and its high-backed settle keeping the draughts out, its bare sanded floor, and round-topped table tipping back into an arm chair, its wheels and reels and various working appurtenances, its porridge kettle on the crane, and dye pot in the chimney corner, was still the general abiding place of the whole family, for there alone could be conveniently carried on the diversified operations of the domestic routine. The fabrication of cloth taxed the united energies of the household. Strong arms were needed to break and swingle the stubborn flax fibre, cleanse and separate the matted fleece, ere feminine hands could undertake the hatcheling and carding. Children, grandparents and feeble folk could wind up the quills and turn the reel while the sturdy matron and her grown-up daughters accomplished their "day's work" at the loom or spinning wheel. The various kinds and grades of cloth needful for family use—sheeting, toweling, blankets, coverlets, heavy woolen cloth for men's wear in winter and tow cloth for summer, woolen stuff, linsey-woolsey and gingham for women and children—were mainly manufactured at home. And when to this Herculean labor was added the making of butter and cheese, the care of pickling and preserving a year's supply of beef and pork, making sausages, running candles and other necessary work, but little time was left for labors of fancy and ornamentation. The homespun gowns were made up in the simplest fashion. Perambulating tailors cut and made the heavy garments for men, and itinerant shoemakers fashioned the family shoes from cowhides and calfskins produced on the premises. Bean porridge, baked pork and beans, boiled meat and vegetables, rye and Indian bread, milk, cheese and cider, with plenty of shad and salmon in their season, and a good goose or turkey at Thanksgiving, made up the

bill of fare. Butchers and markets were yet almost unknown, but a self-regulating meat exchange was found in every community, several neighbors by mutual understanding slaughtering each an animal in turn, and exchanging the fresh meat, so each was served with fresh meat during a considerable part of the season. The salt then used was bought in great chunks, and had to be ground at the grist mills, where a day was occasionally set apart for this specific kind of work.

The beginnings of the manufacturing era, to which Windham county mainly owes its present material prosperity, may be set down as about the close of the last century, or the early years of the present one. Arthur and John Scholfield, who came from England in 1793, succeeded after ten or twelve years' experimental effort in making ready for market "double carding machines, upon a new and improved plan." A machine for carding sheep's wool was set up by John Scholfield, Jr., in Jewett City, in 1804, who accommodated numerous customers by picking, breaking, carding and oiling wool at twelve cents a pound. Families in adjacent parts of this county availed themselves of this improved method of getting their work done, and the business prospered so much as to stimulate others to engage in it. In 1806 Cyrus Brewster established a mill on the falls of the Willimantic, where he did the same work as that mentioned above for nine cents a pound in cash, or eleven cents "other pay." Other machines in other parts of the county soon followed. About this time the introduction of machinery for manufacturing cotton furnished new food for the enterprise and activity of the people. This was the establishment of the Pomfret Manufacturing Company at the present site of the village of Putnam, the first cotton factory in Windham county. The works were set in operation April 1st, 1807. Other cotton factories followed in the neighboring towns with such rapidity as to cause alarm in the minds of some. The *Windham Herald* in November, 1811, after stating that the number of cotton mills within thirty miles of Providence had increased within two years from thirty-nine to seventy-four, asks the startling question: "Are not the people running *cotton-mill mad*?" But for all that the cotton mills continued to be erected and the people connected with them prospered.

We come now to a period when the clouds of war hovered over our land. The war of 1812-14, with the questions of public

policy associated with it, excited great interest among the people of this county. Party spirit was aroused to a high pitch, and political animosities were kindled into vivid flame. The old Federalists as a party denounced the war and its advocates, and quite overbore for a time the influence of the sympathizing Jeffersonians. After the embargo act of 1807, the occasion being designated as an "alarming crisis," a meeting of the citizens of Windham county was held at the court house to consider the situation. The voice of this meeting disapproved this act as a thing unnecessary, at the same time declaring that "the same patriotic spirit which conducted us to LIBERTY and INDEPENDENCE will now animate us when that Liberty and Independence are in danger, and that the American Nation are prepared to sacrifice their lives and fortunes in defence of the only Free Republican Government on Earth against the insidious wiles or the open attack of any foreign power."

Notwithstanding the dominance of the federal party and the strong influence of such men as Swift and Goddard, personal experience of the exactions and insolence of Great Britain, as well as the spirit of party, led many to welcome the prospect and declaration of war. Windham sailors had been taken from American ships under false pretenses and made to serve for years in the British navy. The brisk little "Windham" and other craft had been seized and confiscated under Berlin Decrees and Orders in Council. The military spirit, revived in the hearts of the young men by what they heard their fathers tell of the revolution, prompted many to accept the tempting inducements held out by recruiting officers and join the military companies that were forming. The following call, issued through the columns of the *Windham Herald*, illustrates the methods of obtaining recruits.

"RECRUITING SERVICE!!

"TO MEN OF PATRIOTISM, COURAGE AND ENTERPRISE.

"Every able-bodied MAN, from the age of 18 to 45 years, who shall be enlisted for the ARMY of the United States, for the term of five years, will be paid a bounty of SIXTEEN DOLLARS; and whenever he shall have served the term for which he enlisted, and obtained an honorable discharge, stating that he had faithfully performed his duty while in service, he shall

be allowed and paid in addition to the aforesaid bounty, THREE MONTHS PAY, and ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY ACRES OF LAND; and in case he shall be killed in action, or die in the service, his heirs and representatives will be entitled to the said three months pay, and one hundred and sixty acres of land, to be designated, surveyed, and laid off at publick expense.

“HENRY DYER,

“*Lieut. U. S. Infantry.*

“*Rendezvous, Windham,*

“*May 11th, 1812.*

“N. B.—A good DRUMMER and FIFER are wanted immediately.”

It is hardly to be expected that the above appeal should have called out a full army at once. It doubtless met with a ready response, however. But what patriot could resist the following, which was also promulgated through the columns of the *Windham Herald*:

“The subscriber gives this public notification to all young Gentlemen who have an inclination of serving their country and gaining immortal honor to themselves and their posterity, that he has lately received fresh orders of Inlistment from government, which are much more favorable than those he formerly had. The period for inlistment is now fixed at five years, unless sooner discharged, after which time an honorable discharge will be given, where it is merited. Let no male or female disorganizer discourage you from engaging in this most laudable undertaking, but voluntarily step forth and tell the world that no usurpers shall maintain ground on Columbia's shore, but that America is, and shall be a distinct republic. Come, my good souls, come forward, let me see you at the rendezvous at Mr. Staniford's, where you will get further information, and something good to cheer the heart.

“WILLIAM YOUNG, JUN., Capt.”

Troops were raised by Connecticut, subject, however, only to the order of her governor. Of these troops in Windham county, Daniel Putnam was made colonel of the Second regiment, raised for special service. Of the Second company in this regiment Asa Copeland, of Pomfret, was captain; Ebenezer Grosvenor, first lieutenant; Jonathan Copeland, Jr., of Thompson, second lieutenant; Jeremiah Scarborough, of Brooklyn, ensign. In the

Third company George Middleton, of Plainfield, was captain; Elkanah Eaton, first lieutenant; George W. Kies, second lieutenant; Jared Wilson, of Sterling, ensign. Of the Third company of Cavalry Thomas Hubbard was captain; William Trowbridge, first lieutenant; William Cotton, second lieutenant; Ralph Hall, cornet. Citizens exempt by age or official position from military service were enrolled as the First regiment of a volunteer brigade under command of General David Humphreys. Of this regiment Honorable Thomas Grosvenor was colonel; Eliphalet Holmes, lieutenant colonel; James Danielson, first major. Such men as Lemuel Ingalls, Chester Child, Hobart Torrey, Abel Ardrus, Moses Arnold, Shubael Hutchins, Ebenezer Eaton, Sylvanus Backus, John Davis, Luther Warren and Jeremiah Kinsman were officers in this regiment.

The first summons to arms created considerable excitement. June 21st, 1813, men were ordered to rendezvous in the central taverns of their respective towns, "complete in arms to go to New London as there were British there." Soldiers meeting at the taverns were in some instances marched to the meeting houses, where they were treated to stirring addresses to nerve them for the prospective scenes. Whole companies were drawn up in line ready to march in an amazingly short space of time. Marching to New London, they remained on guard there about three weeks.

Another call came in September. Artemus Bruce, Stephen Ricard, Charles Howard and some twelve or fifteen other Pomfret boys went out under Captain Copeland and Ensign Grosvenor. Meeting others from Ashford, Windham and other towns, in Norwich, they formed a company ninety-six strong. They embarked in a sloop next day and proceeded to New London, where they encamped. Here they remained seven weeks, but were not called upon to do any fighting. A detachment of cavalry from the Fifth regiment was stationed at New London and Groton from September 1st to October 31st. These were: Comfort S. Hyde, of Canterbury, lieutenant; John C. Howard and Jacob Dresser, sergeants; John Kendall and David Hutchinson, corporals; Rhodes Arnold, Henry Angell, Charles Barrows, Elisha P. Barstow, Zachariah Cone, Ichabod Davis, Abial Durkee, John Gallup, Arnold Hosmer, Jonathan Hammet, Jr., Edward S. Keyes, Dana Lyon, Hezekiah Loomis, William Morse, Zeba Phelps, Elisha Paine, Bela Post, Shubael Strong, Otis Stod-

dard and Jaspèr Woodward, privates. Many others of the sons of Windham, but who had gone out to other fields of life and labor, had entered the service of the country and were honoring themselves, their country and the locality of their nativity by their valorous acquittal of the trusts imposed upon them. Of these we cannot now speak particularly.

The summons to the relief of New London when invasion actually came, August 9th, 1814, awakened something of the old revolutionary enthusiasm. Lieutenant Hough, of Canterbury, with a small body of militia, helped to defend Stonington from the attack of the British fleet, and he was himself knocked down by a shell, and taken up for dead. David Fuller, of Scotland, begged leave of Captain Palmer to lead the first company, warned the men at sunrise, and at three o'clock in the afternoon marched off with seventeen men directly for New London. Other companies, drafted from the militia of different towns, followed as soon as possible. Marvin Adams, David Walden and others, from Scotland, reached Norwich town August 23d and lodged in the old court house. Joining other companies at Norwich, they proceeded the next day to New London, running races by the way and giving but little attention to military order. After remaining in New London about six days, they proceeded to Stonington, where they acted as a sort of guard to the town. Some of the men were in uniform, and others wore their Sunday suits. Discipline was easy and so were the duties of the men. Substitutes in standing guard could be obtained at any time for a pint of whiskey. No fighting was called for, and after enjoying a sort of protracted picnic for several weeks the men returned home in safety.

Many scenes and events of that period would afford pleasure in their recital, but the space cannot be afforded to offer them here. Though suffering visited many parts of our land, where the sterner scenes of war were enacted, and dangers hovered about the coast near this part of Connecticut, yet the participation of Windham county in the war really amounted to hardly more than a farce. This fact, however, did not prevent the news of peace being hailed with many and hearty demonstrations of rejoicing. The news of Jackson's triumphant victory at New Orleans reached Windham simultaneously with that of the signing of the treaty of peace. The conjunction of good tidings

was announced by the *Windham Herald*, February 16th, 1815, in the following language:

"We congratulate our readers on the heart-cheering news which they will find in our paper of this day. The rumor of the glad tidings of PEACE reached this place Monday afternoon. It was immediately announced by loud peals from the belfry of the meeting house. In the course of the evening this gratifying news was fully confirmed by handbills from Hartford, etc. No event since the peace of the revolutionary war could have diffused such general joy. Every countenance appeared glad, and mutual gratulations were reciprocated without distinction of party. The rejoicings were resumed the next day by the ringing of the bell, firing of cannon and other demonstrations of joy."

Appropriate celebrations were held in most of the Windham county towns, the old field-piece of the Brooklyn Matross Company doing triple service in honor of the occasion. All parties rejoiced that the war was ended, and even the bluest federalist exulted in the triumph of his countrymen. So the war of 1812 passed into history, and Windham county had from it but little to darken the peaceful trend of its own experiences. In later years the government made liberal provision by pensions for those who served their country in any way during that period.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE CIVIL WAR.

An Age of Prosperity.—Growth of the Union and Anti-Slavery Sentiment.—The Strongest Republican County in Connecticut.—Outbreak of the Rebellion.—County Mass Meeting.—Volunteer Companies Formed.—The Uprising of the Martial Spirit.—Popular Excitement.—Raising the Flag.—Recruiting.—Death of General Nathaniel Lyon.—Windham's Interest in General McClellan.—Organizations Represented by Windham County Soldiers.—Responses to Later Calls.—The Eighteenth Regiment.—Work of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions at Home.—The Martyrs to the Union Cause.

FOLLOWING the war of 1812-14 a long period of peace and material growth blessed the land with its strengthening effects. Windham county during this period was absorbed in building up her manufacturing enterprises and educating her sons in the principles which were to be put to the fearful test of a four years' war. During all those years of peace the principles which were at last to be involved in war were taking root and firmly establishing themselves in the hearts of the people of this county in common with hundreds of other counties in the northern states of the Union. Though but one of the many in this respect, still it may be said of Windham that she was at least one of the conspicuous ones in her devotion to the principles of human freedom and support of the general union of the states.

Though the resources of Windham county were relatively limited, yet her political status enabled her to extend most hearty aid and comfort to the central government. The strong anti-slavery sentiment early developed, deepened and strengthened by the repeal of the Missouri Compromise and concurrent events, overcame partisan and political bias, and made her the strongest republican county in Connecticut. The call to aid in putting down the rebellion at the South met with immediate response in this county. Meetings were at once held in all the prominent villages, and measures were instituted for carrying out patriotic resolutions. Revolutionary scenes were re-enacted.

Young men hurried to cities to enlist, or joined in company drill at home; women came together to prepare clothing and lint; towns hastened to make provision for raising and supplying their prospective quotas. A county mass meeting was held in Brooklyn, April 22d, 1861, at which Governor Cleveland presided. A committee on resolutions, consisting of Daniel P. Tyler, W. H. Chandler, B. F. Palmer, H. Hammond, W. Simpson, J. Q. A. Stone, B. P. Spaulding and Jeremiah Olney, declared that "citizens of Windham County would expend their last dollar, and exhaust the last drop of their blood ere they would submit to a disruption of the Nation." Stirring, patriotic addresses were made by many earnest speakers. Sixty volunteers offered to take the field at once, and six thousand five hundred dollars was pledged for the support of the government, Mr. W. H. Chandler heading the list with five hundred dollars. Many volunteer companies were formed in the several towns in advance of state requisition. E. W. Whitaker and Daniel Whitaker, of Ashford, and Lester E. Braley, of Windham, gained admittance into the First regiment of Connecticut volunteers. No man rendered such service in organizing Connecticut's forces as the colonel of this regiment, Daniel Tyler, of Norwich, a worthy representative of the father and grandfather bearing the same name, so long honored in Brooklyn and throughout Windham county. Sixteen Windham county residents enlisted in the Second regiment, under Colonel Terry, and a small number in the Third, of which Alexander Warner, of Woodstock, was major, and Doctor John McGregor, of Thompson, surgeon. These regiments were hurried on to the seat of war, and took part in the action at Bull Run, where Doctor McGregor was taken prisoner.

In all the events which crowded upon each other during those early years of the war Windham county took a deep interest. The excitement and strange fascination which seized the people when the blare of martial movements swept like a noontide conflagration over the land will be remembered by those who were living at the time as long as memory shall serve its mission to them. But how like a dream it has already become! Were it not for an occasional mound in the graveyard, an empty sleeve or otherwise disfigured body, or the face of a loved one whom the fortunes of war have never returned to the home whence he went out in the freshness and vigor of his young manhood, we might almost be tempted to set our recollections of the war down

as a dreamy illusion of our minds—a picture of the past conjured up by the imagination laboring under some strange spell of abnormal excitement. But there are enough of these sad material evidences to painfully refresh our fading memories and make real the misty recollections of the scenes associated with the great civil war. The people of Windham county heard the strains of martial music, as one after another companies of soldiers, in progress of forming and filling their ranks and marching to some rendezvous to enter the service, came through the different towns and villages. They heartily joined in raising the dishonored flag to every position of prominence where it could float on the pure breezes of these immortal hills and proclaim to the stars of heaven and to the noon sun their determination to avenge the dishonor that had been attempted upon it, and to preserve, at the cost of their treasures or their lives, the fullness of its emblematic significance. One of the prominent figures of the early part of the war was General Nathaniel Lyon, a son of this county, and one of the early and conspicuous martyrs to the cause of the Union. His death was deeply mourned by the whole loyal country, but to Windham county the death was one of augmented importance from the fact already mentioned of his association with the county, and still further from the fact that hither his remains were brought and laid away in their final resting place amid impressive ceremonies, which were witnessed by the largest concourse of people ever assembled within the county. It was estimated that his funeral and interment at Eastford was attended by twenty thousand people. A more particular account of it will be found in connection with the history of that town.

The promotion of General George B. McClellan to the command of the Union army was another event in which Windham county was peculiarly interested by local association. He was the son of Doctor George McClellan, a distinguished Philadelphia surgeon, whose boyhood was well remembered in Woodstock. James, the father of the latter, was the son of General Samuel McClellan, who was among the prominent figures of this county during the revolution. Thus the name could not but awaken enthusiasm and hope for his success in the hearts of the Windham county people, and only the unwelcome conviction that the modern general lacked something of the fire of his ancestors, and did not share their anti-slavery views, overcame this early predilection.

The events to which we have referred in general and in particular, all awakened the deepest interest in Windham county, stimulating activity in enlistment and military preparation. Young men kept back by the reiterated declaration that they would not be needed, were mustered by hundreds into the quickly forming regiments. About fifty were included in the Fourth regiment. Company H, of the Fifth regiment, Captain Albert S. Granger, of Putnam; Company A, of the Sixth, Captain Thomas K. Bates, of Brooklyn; Company K, of the Seventh, Captain Charles Burton, of Killingly, who was succeeded by Captain Jerome Tourtellotte, of Putnam; and Company F, of the Eighth, Captain Elijah T. Smith, of Plainfield, were almost wholly filled with Windham county men, while others still enlisted in other companies. The Whitakers and Edwin L. Lyon, of Ashford, were enrolled in Cavalry Company B. Judson M. Lyon, of Woodstock, was major of First regiment cavalry, and Andrew B. Bowen captain of Company A, with some thirty men from Woodstock and towns adjacent. The Eleventh regiment was greatly beloved in Windham county. Officers of this regiment from here were Charles Matthewson, of Pomfret, lieutenant colonel; Reverend George Soule, of Hampton, chaplain; Doctor James R. Whitcomb, of Brooklyn, surgeon; George W. Davis, of Thompson, quartermaster sergeant. The companies of Captain Clapp, of Pomfret, and Captain Hyde, of Plainfield, were mostly made up from this county. Many from the southern towns enlisted in Company G, of the Twelfth regiment, sometimes called the "Lyon Guards," under the veteran Captain Braley, of Windham. Alexander Warner, of Woodstock, went out as lieutenant colonel of the Thirteenth. Windham's contribution to this regiment were mostly included in Company E, of which E. E. Graves, of Thompson, was first lieutenant.

These soldiers received generous bounties from their respective towns and ample provision for their families, and went out hopefully to their varied posts of duty and service. After six months of military vicissitudes, culminating in the withdrawal from the siege of Richmond, the towns were again called to raise their proportion of "three hundred thousand more." Eastern Connecticut responded with such alacrity that the Eighteenth regiment, raised in New London and Windham counties, though the last one summoned, was the first one to be ready to leave. This regiment was in line of march by the 22d of August, 1862.

Enlistment in it, especially in the north part of the county, was greatly stimulated by the return of Doctor McGregor, after more than a year spent in captivity. A public reception given him on Thompson Green was very largely attended, and his changed appearance and affecting story made a very deep impression, rousing sober, thoughtful men to a truer apprehension of the nature of the contest. The Eighteenth was the most emphatically representative regiment of Windham county. Colonel Ely was of Killingly parentage. Lieutenant Colonel Nichols, a favored son of Thompson, was widely known in other towns. Major Keach was a Killingly veteran, while Assistant Surgeons Harrington and Hough were familiar residents of Sterling and Putnam. Companies of Windham county men were commanded by Captains T. K. Bates, of Brooklyn; Joseph Matthewson, of Pomfret; G. W. Warner, of Woodstock; C. D. Bowen, of Windham, and E. J. Matthewson, of Killingly. Doctor Lowell Holbrook, of Thompson, and Reverend W. C. Walker, of Putnam, at a later date went out as surgeon and chaplain respectively, of this favorite regiment. Windham was also well represented in Companies D, J, and K, in the Twenty-first regiment, and in Company G, of the Twenty-sixth. Addison G. Warner, of Putnam, having recruited more than a hundred men for the First Cavalry, was commissioned captain, in January, 1864.

Windham also furnished recruits for the artillery and other regiments, and paid her proportion for the colored regiments, promptly fulfilling from the first to the last every requisition of government. More earnest in filling her quotas than in seeking for office, she furnished proportionably more subalterns than commanders, though many of Windham birth or stock who went out from other places, gained a high rank and rendered distinguished service. At home as in other sections there was great outflow of private liberality, money and labor being freely expended in sending comforts to friends who had gone to the front, and to the Sanitary and Christian Commissions, in every neighborhood Soldiers' Aid Societies were busily at work, and "prayer was without ceasing of the church unto God" for help and deliverance.

Of the service rendered by the men sent out from Windham county it is impossible here to give a detailed report, but there is good reason for belief that it compared favorably with that of the great mass of volunteers, and in many instances was sig-

nally effective. Still less can we speak in detail of the lives that were sacrificed. Each town has its death-roll and its honored graves, which the people yearly decorate. Some of these heroes were among the best and brightest young men of Windham county; most worthy to be remembered with those of a previous generation, who like them had given their lives for their country. We need not fear that their names or their deeds will be forgotten. Enrolled in the archives of the state and nation, embalmed in every patriot heart, their fame will but grow brighter with the lapse of years. Mustered into the great army that from age to age in every clime has raised the "battle-cry of Freedom," the men whose names are inscribed on Windham's latest war record may be sure of imperishable remembrance.

CHAPTER IX.

WINDHAM COUNTY OF TO-DAY.

Its Towns and their present condition.—Their Population at different periods.—Conspicuous Citizens.—Presidential Candidates.—Honored Sons of Windham.—State Senators.—Presidents *pro tem.* of the Senate.—Speakers of the House.—Present Representatives.—The Courts.—County Officers.—Literary Associations.—Agricultural Society.—Temperance Society.—Temperance Movements.

THE towns at present comprising Windham county are fifteen in number, viz., Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson, Windham and Woodstock. In these are also included the incorporated boroughs of Danielsonville and Willimantic. The following brief synopsis of them will assist the reader to a better understanding of them. Ashford, first mentioned in 1710, lies in the north-western part, is an agricultural town, and has a population of 1,041. Its grand list amounts to \$275,534. It has no railroad within its borders. The post offices in it are Ashford, Westford, West Ashford and Warrenville. Brooklyn, the county town, was incorporated in May, 1786, the territory composing it being taken from Pomfret and Canterbury. It has a population of 2,308, and its grand list amounts to \$1,451,404. Its principal industries are agriculture and the manufacture of cotton goods. Canterbury was incorporated in 1703, being formed from Plainfield. It is an agricultural town and has a population of 1,272. Its grand list is \$482,166. It is located in the southern part of the county, and contains post offices Canterbury, South Canterbury, Westminster and Packerville. Chaplin, lying on the western border of the county, was taken from Mansfield and Hampton, and was incorporated in May, 1822. It has a population of 627, and its grand list is \$204,730. The principal industries are agriculture and paper making. Its only post office is Chaplin. Eastford lies in the northwest part of the county, and

contains a population of 855. It was incorporated in May, 1847, being formed from Ashford. The grand list amounts to \$203,127, the principal industries being agriculture and twine making. It contains post offices Eastford, Phoenixville and North Ashford. Hampton, situated in the western part of the county, was incorporated in October, 1786. It was formed from parts of Windham, Pomfret, Brooklyn, Canterbury and Mansfield. It has a population of 827, and a grand list of \$339,104. The principal industry is agriculture. Its post offices are Hampton, Rawson and Clark's Corner. Killingly was incorporated in May, 1708. It lies midway of the county, on the eastern border. It has a population of 6,921, of which 2,210 are included in the borough of Danielsonville. The grand list amounts to \$2,144,153, and that of the borough of Danielsonville to \$1,200,717. Agriculture and the manufacture of cotton and woolen goods are the leading industries. Post offices in the town are Danielsonville, Killingly, Ballouville, East Killingly and South Killingly. Plainfield, situated in the southeastern part, has a population of 4,021, and a grand list of \$1,735,640. It was incorporated in May, 1699. The principal industries are agriculture and the manufacture of cotton and woolen goods, bricks, carriages, and other articles. Within its limits are post offices Plainfield, Central Village, Moosup, Wauregan and Packerville. Pomfret lies in the central part of the county and has a population of 1,470. Its name appears as early as 1730. The principal industries are agriculture and entertaining summer boarders, the beauty of its scenery being famous. Its grand list amounts to \$801,711. Post offices in the town, Pomfret, Pomfret Center, Pomfret Landing, Abington and Elliott's. Putnam, formed from parts of Thompson, Pomfret and Killingly, was incorporated in May, 1855. Its population is 5,827, a considerable part of which is in the compact village. The grand list is \$1,995,008. The principal industries are the manufacture of cotton, woolen and silk goods, shoes, steam heaters and other goods, and agriculture. The town lies near the northwestern part of the county, and contains the post offices Putnam and Putnam Heights. Scotland, taken from Windham, was incorporated in May, 1857. It has a population of 590, a grand list of \$267,423, and its principal industry is agriculture. It lies on the southern border, near the southwest corner of the county. Sterling, taken from Voluntown, which was then a part of this

county, was incorporated in May, 1794. Its population is 957 and its grand list \$259,263. The town now occupies the extreme southeast corner of the county. Its principal industries are agriculture, dyeing and bleaching and some other manufacturing, and granite quarrying. The post offices Sterling, Oneco, Ekonk and North Sterling are in this town. Thompson, located in the extreme northeast corner of the county, was incorporated in May, 1785. Its territory was taken from the northern part of Killingly. Its population is 5,051 and its grand list \$1,713,420. The principal industries are agriculture and the manufacture of cotton and woolen goods. It has post offices Thompson, West Thompson, East Thompson, Grosvenor Dale, North Grosvenor Dale, Wiltonville, Mechanicsville, New Boston and Quinebaug. Windham, occupying the extreme southwest corner of the county, was incorporated in May, 1692. Its present population is 8,264, being greater than that of any other town in the county, while in territory it is one of the smallest. Its grand list amounts to \$4,146,127, while that of the borough of Willimantic, which is included within its limits, amounts to \$3,505,044. The principal industries are the manufacture of spool cotton, silk twist, cotton fabrics, silk and other machinery, carriages and other articles, and agriculture. It contains the post offices Willimantic, Windham, North Windham and South Windham. Woodstock, in the northwest part of the county, is the largest in territory of all the towns of the county. It was incorporated as a town of Massachusetts in March, 1690, and annexed to Connecticut in May, 1749. Its population is 2,639; grand list \$943,536. The principal industries are agriculture and the manufacture of cotton twine. Its post offices are Woodstock, North Woodstock, South Woodstock, East Woodstock, West Woodstock and Woodstock Valley.

Some idea of the growth of the towns of this county may be gained from the following figures which show the population of each town at various periods: Ashford—1756, 1,245; 1775, 2,241; 1800, 2,445; 1870, 1,242; 1880, 1,041. Brooklyn—1800, 1,202; 1870, 2,355; 1880, 2,308. Canterbury—1756, 1,260; 1775, 2,444; 1800, 1,812; 1870, 1,552; 1880, 1,272. Chaplin—1870, 704; 1880, 627. Eastford—1870, 984; 1880, 885. Hampton—1800, 1,379; 1870, 891; 1880, 827. Killingly—1756, 2,100; 1775, 3,486; 1800, 2,279; 1870, 5,712; 1880, 6,921. Plainfield—1756, 1,800; 1775, 1,562; 1800, 1,619; 1870, 4,521; 1880, 4,021. Pomfret—1756, 1,727; 1775,

2,306; 1800, 1,802; 1870, 1,488; 1880, 1,470. Putnam—1870, 4,192; 1880, 5,827. Scotland—1870, 648; 1880, 590. Sterling—1800, 908; 1870, 1,022; 1880, 957. Thompson—1880, 2,341; 1870, 3,804; 1880, 5,051. Windham—1756, 2,446; 1775, 3,528; 1800, 2,644; 1870, 5,413; 1880, 8,264. Woodstock—1756, 1,366; 1775, 2,054; 1800, 2,463; 1870, 2,955; 1880, 2,639.

Citizens of Windham county have often been honored with positions of importance and trust under the state government or the colonial government in pre-revolutionary times. Some of those we shall notice in the following lists, which are in some instances complete, and in others as nearly so as accessible material will allow. Among the governors of the state were Samuel Huntington, Jonathan Trumbull and Chauncey F. Cleveland. Among those who have been lieutenant governors are the names of Samuel Huntington, Jonathan Trumbull, Ebenezer Stoddard and David Gallup. Among those who have held the office of state secretary are Marvin H. Sanger, of Canterbury, who served four years, 1873-77; Charles E. Searls, of Thompson, who served two years, 1881-83; and Charles A. Russell, of Killingly, who served two years, 1885-87.

It may not be amiss to mention in passing, while having in mind the sons of Windham who have come into prominence, that some associated at least with this county have aspired to the presidential chair of the nation. We have already seen that General George B. McClellan was a descendant of Windham county stock. If we have been rightly informed, the ancestors of ex-President Grover Cleveland were citizens of Windham county. And the late candidate of the prohibition party for the presidency, General Clinton B. Fisk, in a speech at Roseland Park during the campaign, said: "I count it no light honor that my father and mother were born in Windham county; that but a few miles from here, on the Five Mile river, the village blacksmith in the first decades of this century was my father; that in the little church at Killingly my mother was one of the sweetest singers in the choir." If this reference to men of prominence be considered a digression here, we trust our charitable reader will pardon it, while we briefly mention others who have been honored in other than political fields and other localities county wise. Scattered throughout the land, in almost every state, are found the descendants of Windham, among the solid, sterling citizens who have built up society and maintain civil and relig-

ious institutions. The world has heard of our Morses and Holmes, Generals Eaton and Lyon and Commodore Morris. Dartmouth, Williamstown, Union, Andover, Yale, Middlebury and Bangor honor the memory of the good men that Windham has given them—Presidents Wheelock, Fitch, Nott, and Professors Adams, Kingsley, Hubbard, Larned, Hough and Shepard. Rhode Island will never forget the services of Lieutenant Governor Sessions. William Larned Marcy and Elisha Williams hold a high rank among the great men of the empire state. Ohio gratefully remembers Doctor Manasseh Cutler and General Moses Cleveland. Edmond and George Badger won success and honor in North Carolina, and New Orleans still bears witness to the eloquence of Sylvester Larned and Chief Justice Bradford. Colonel Craft, of Vermont; Governor Williams, of New Hampshire; Senator Ruggles, of Ohio; Hon. Thomas P. Grosvenor, of Maryland, has each an honorable record in his adopted state. New Haven owes to Windham her respected Whitings and Whites, and the late excellent mayor, Hon. Aaron Skinner, while Hartford is indebted for distinguished and useful physicians—Doctors Coggswell, Welch and Sumner. Windham is largely represented in the ministerial ranks, sending out the ancestors of Dr. Bacon, of New Haven; Dr. Storrs, of Brooklyn; Dr. William Adams, of New York; Dr. George L. Walker, of Hartford, and a host of lesser luminaries. She has given to art Miss Anne Hall, Samuel Waldo, Frank Alexander, Henry Dexter and Ithiel Town, architect of national fame. The Grosvenor Library of Buffalo perpetuates the name and munificence of the son of one of Windham's honored families, Hon. Seth Grosvenor, of New York. The works of E. G. Squier, Alice and Phebe Cary, Mrs. Botta, Mrs. Lippincott (Grace Greenwood), and E. C. Stedman, do honor to their Windham ancestry. And here we should not forget the name of Henry C. Bowen, the indefatigable publisher of the *New York Independent*, whose interest in Windham county is "known and read of all men." Then we find among the residents of the county also those whose literary works are known beyond the limits of the county, among whom may be mentioned Miss Jane Gay Fuller, of Scotland; Mrs. C. N. W. Thomas, of Killingly; Mrs. Corbin, Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton, whose summer home is at Pomfret; Mrs. Charles Thompson of the same place, and Miss Sarah S. Hall, of West Killingly.

Of those who have held official positions in the state we may mention state treasurers Jedidiah Huntington, 1789-90; Ezra Dean, 1861-62; Henry G. Taintor, 1866-67; Edwin A. Buck, 1877-79, and Alexander Warner, 1887 to the present time. Of comptrollers may be mentioned Roger Huntington, 1834-35; Mason Cleveland, 1846-47; Jesse Olney, 1867-69; James W. Manning, 1869-70 and 1871-73.

State senators from this county since 1819 have been as follows, the number directly following each name being the number of the senatorial district represented by him: William Alexander, 14, 1843; John C. Ames, 13, 1849; Thomas Backus, 14, 1835, 38; Clark E. Barrows, 16, 1883, 84; Joseph D. Barrows, 14, 1869, 70; Ira D. Bates, 16, 1887, 88; Eugene S. Boss, 17, 1882, 83; Lucius Briggs, 14, 1875; Calvin B. Bromley, 13, 1863; William Brown, 13, 1857; Edwin A. Buck, 13, 1876; Edwin H. Bugbee, 14, 1865, 68; Ichabod Bulkeley, 14, 1836, 37; Gilbert W. Phillips to January 7th and Richmond M. Bullock succeeding, 14, 1880; Mowry Burgess, 13, 1844; James Burnett, 13, 1872; Harvey Campbell, 13, 1861; Elisha Carpenter, 14, 1857, 58; George S. Catlin, 13, 1850; William H. Chandler, 14, 1867; Thomas G. Clarke, 17, 1884, 85; Mason Cleveland, 13, 1842; William H. Coggsell, 13, 1860; James M. Cook, 11, 1886; S. Storrs Cotton, 14, 1871, 72; Edward L. Cundall, 13, 1864; Albert Day, 13, 1873; Ezra Dean, 14, 1852, 53; John S. Dean, 14, 1877, 78; Archibald Douglass, 13, 1848; Edwin Eaton, 13, 1852; Joseph Eaton, 13, 1840, 41; Edward Eldridge, 14, 1841, 42; Samuel M. Fenner, 14, 1873, 74; William Field, 14, 1849, 50; Archibald Fry, 13, 1853; Amos J. Gallup, 13, 1858, 67; David Gallup, 13, 1869; John Gallup, 13, 1856; David Greenslit, 13, 1866; Edwin C. Griggs, 13, 1868; Charles W. Grosvenor, 17, 1886; Dixon Hall, 13, 1821, 22; Henry Hammond, 14, 1881 and 16, 1882; Whiting Hayden, 13, 1874; Thomas Hubbard, 1829; Joseph Hutchins, 17, 1887, 88; Andrew T. Judson, 13, 1830; John Kendall, 13, 1843; David Keyes, 1823, 24; Samuel Lee, 13, 1855; William A. Lewis, 13, 1880, 81; William Lyon, 3d, 14, 1844, 45; Thomas S. Marlbor, 13, 1875; Charles Matthewson, 14, 1854, 56; John McGregor, 14, 1866; Chauncey Morse, 13, 1865; George S. Moulton, 13, 1877, 79; Faxon Nichols, 14, 1847; John Nichols, 1828, 29; Jonathan Nichols, 14, 1833, 34; Daniel Packer, 13, 1831; George A. Paine, 14, 1859, 60; Stephen F. Palmer, 14, 1830, 32; Philip Pearl, 13, 1832, 33, 39; Porter B. Peck, 13, 1859; Gilbert W. Phillips, 14,

1862, 63, 79 to January, 1880, when he resigned; Elisha Potter, 13, 1845; Hezekiah S. Ramsdell, 14, 1851; Jared D. Richmond, 14, 1848; William S. Scarborough, 14, 1846; John H. Simmons, 14, 1861, 64; George Spafford, 13, 1834, 38; Bela P. Spaulding, 13, 1837; Ebenezer Stoddard, 1825, 27; Elliot B. Sumner, 13, 1871; Henry G. Taintor, 13, 1851; James B. Tatem, 16, 1885, 86; Oscar Tourtellotte, 14, 1876; John Tracy, 13, 1862; Peter Webb, 1819, 20; Samuel Webb, 13, 1846; Joel W. White, 13, 1835, 36; Job Williams, 14, 1839, 40; Walter Williams, 13, 1854; William Witter, 13, 1847; Ebenezer Young, 1823, 25.

This county has furnished the following presidents *pro tem.* of the senate: Ichabod Bulkley, of Ashford, 1837; Elisha Carpenter, of Killingly, 1858; Gilbert W. Phillips, of Putnam, 1863; Amos J. Gallup of Sterling, 1867; Edwin H. Bugbee, of Killingly, 1868; David Gallup, of Plainfield, 1869; S. Storrs Cotton, of Pomfret, 1872, and Gilbert W. Phillips, of Putnam, 1879, till his resignation in January, 1880. Windham has not been so popular a field for the selection of clerks of the senate, the only one of whom we have any knowledge being Edgar M. Warner, of Plainfield at the time, later of Putnam, who held the position in 1880. The following speakers of the house of representatives (state) have been selected from Windham county: Ebenezer Young, of Killingly, 1827, 28; Chauncey F. Cleveland, of Hampton, 1835, 36; Alfred A. Burnham, of Windham, 1858; Chauncey F. Cleveland, of Hampton, 1863; David Gallup, of Plainfield, 1866; Alfred A. Burnham, of Windham, 1870; Edwin H. Bugbee, of Killingly, 1871; John M. Hall, of Willimantic, 1882. Clerks of the house from this county have been as follows: Jonathan A. Welch, of Brooklyn, 1840; Edward B. Bennett, of Hampton, 1870, and Edgar M. Warner, of Plainfield, 1878-79.

The senators for this county in 1888 were: Ira D. Bates, of Thompson, for the Sixteenth Senatorial district, and Joseph Hutchins, of Plainfield, for the Seventeenth district. The present representatives from this county are: Vine R. Franklin, Brooklyn; Davis A. Baker and Newell S. Delphia, Ashford; Marvin H. Sanger and C. S. Burlingame, Canterbury; William A. Clark, Chaplin; Charles A. Wheaton, Eastford; Joseph W. Congdon, Hampton; William P. Kelley and Milton A. Shumway, Killingly; Edwin Milner and Edward G. Bugbee, Plainfield; Charles O. Thompson and Charles F. Martin, Pomfret; Charles D. Torrey and Gustavus D. Bates, Putnam; Caleb

Anthony, Scotland ; William C. Pike, Sterling ; Byron S. Thompson and Alonzo O. Woodard, Thompson ; J. Griffin Martin and Albert R. Morrison, Windham ; John M. Allen and Albert A. Paine, Woodstock.

There are within this county two commissioners of the United States court, viz., Abiel Converse, of Thompson, and John M. Hall, of Willimantic. In its relations to the supreme court of errors, this county is a part of the First Judicial district, which comprises all the northern counties of the state, the courts in which are held at Hartford on the first Tuesdays of January, March, May and October. The superior court is deemed to be open in each county for certain purposes at all times. Stated terms and sessions are provided for by law in the different counties. Those provided for Windham county are: a " term and session " for civil and criminal business, opening at Brooklyn on the first Tuesday in May ; session at Windham on the first Tuesday in December. A criminal term also begins at Brooklyn on the first Tuesday in September. The probate courts of this county are divided by districts coincident with the towns, with the exception that the Windham district comprises with that town the town of Scotland. The judges are: Huber Clark, Windham ; Davis A. Baker, Ashford ; William Woodbridge, Brooklyn ; Marvin H. Sanger, Canterbury ; C. Edwin Griggs, Chaplin ; Stephen O. Bowen, Eastford ; Patrick H. Pearl, Hampton ; Arthur G. Bill, Killingly ; Waldo Tillinghast, Plainfield ; Edward P. Mathewson, Pomfret ; John A. Carpenter, Putnam ; Gilbert C. Brown, Sterling ; George Flint, Thompson ; Oliver H. Perry, Woodstock.

The county officers are as follows: Commissioners—Edwin H. Hall, Windham, 1888 ; John Kelly, Killingly, 1889 ; A. A. Stanton, Sterling, 1891 ; county treasurer, John P. Wood, Brooklyn ; state's attorney, John J. Penrose, Central Village ; clerk of courts, Samuel H. Seward, Putnam ; assistant clerk, Huber Clark, Willimantic ; sheriff, Charles B. Pomeroy, Willimantic ; deputies—Frank E. Baker, Brooklyn ; Nathaniel P. Thompson, Central Village ; William W. Cummings, Thompson ; Oliver W. Bowen, Danielsonville ; E. C. Vinton, Woodstock ; Henry A. Braman, Eastford ; coroner, Arthur G. Bill, Danielsonville ; medical examiners—Windham, Scotland and Chaplin, Charles James Fox, of Willimantic ; Brooklyn, Alfred H. Tanner ; Ashford ; John H. Simmons ; Canterbury, W. A. Lewis ; Eastford,

E. K. Robbins; Hampton, H. H. Converse; Killingly, Rienzi Robinson, of Danielsonville; Plainfield and Sterling, William A. Lewis, of Moosup; Pomfret, F. G. Sawtelle; Putnam, J. B. Kent; Thompson, Lowell Holbrook; Woodstock, George A. Bowen; prosecuting agents—D. S. Simmons and Joseph Snow, Danielsonville; George U. Carver and John Davenport, Putnam; George A. Conant and E. B. Sumner, Willimantic.

Before closing this general review of the county, we shall turn aside, even at the risk of being charged with digression, to notice an institution of a literary character, which had its beginning at a time when the ripened literature of the world was not scattered, as now, about every man's door almost as plentifully and as free as the autumn leaves are borne to us on the winds of the dying year. The institution to which we refer was the United Library Association. As early as 1739 the aspirations of the people were reaching out after more extended opportunities of reading the best authors, and a more complete culture of the mental powers of the people in this new country. A meeting was held September 25th of that year, at which the ministers and leading men of the northern towns of the county especially were present. An organization was effected, with a dignified and perhaps rather severe set of laws and regulations, and a title which ran as follows: "The United Society or Company for Propagating Christian and Useful Knowledge." Its field of operation was to be the towns of Woodstock, Pomfret, Mortlake and Killingly, and the west part of Thompson parish. The names of the original members of this society and the amount subscribed by each to the funds of the library were as follows: John Chandler, Esq., £20; Abel Stiles, £30; John May, £15; Benjamin Child, £10; Penuel Bowen, £12; Thomas Mather, £15; Abiel Cheney, £10; Ebenezer Holbrook, £20; Joseph Bowman, £20; Joseph Dana, £10; Ephraim Hide, £15; Ephraim Avery, £20; William Williams, £20; Ebenezer Williams, £40; John Fisk, £20; Marston Cabot, £20; Joseph Cady, £16; John Hallowell, £16; William Chandler, £15; Samuel Morris, Jun., £10; Hezekiah Sabin, £10; Noah Sabin, £20; Edward Payson, £10; Joseph Craft, £10; Timothy Sabin, £10; Jacob Dana, £10; Isaac Dana, £10; Darius Sessions, £20; Seth Paine, £10; Samuel Perrin, £15; Nehemiah Sabin, £10; Samuel Sumner, £10; Benjamin Griffin, £20; John Payson, £10; Samuel Dana, £10. Two of the first books obtained for the foundation

of the library were "Dr. Guise's Paraphrase on ye 4 Evangelists," which was presented by the author, and "Stackhouse's Body of Divinity." About forty books were obtained, all but those named above being sent for to England. In 1741 the library was much increased, though it still numbered less than a hundred books. The scheme of conducting a library for the benefit of so large a field, however, was found to be inconvenient, and in 1745 the library was divided. Woodstock and Killingly now received thirty-nine volumes, and the remaining books were given to Pomfret and Mortlake, the latter society now numbering twenty-one members.

One of the first agricultural societies in the country, possibly the first in existence here, was organized at Pomfret as early as 1809, and how long before that time it existed we are not able to learn. It was in operation then, and on December 19th of that year, the following officers were elected: Benjamin Duick, president; Amos Paine and John Williams, vice presidents; Sylvanus Backus, Esq., treasurer, and Darius Mathewson, of Brooklyn; Benjamin Duick, of Pomfret; James McClellan, of Woodstock, correspondence committee.

Nothing further is heard of its progress until 1818, when it doubtless had been revived by the incoming of fresh residents, and a step forward was taken. Premiums were in that year offered for the largest and best fattened animal for beef, \$10; next best, \$5; the best or most valuable crop of flax, \$5; next best, \$2.50; most fruitful acre of clear spring wheat, \$5; for the largest yield of barley on an acre, \$5; the largest or most valuable crop of potatoes, \$6; best pair of working oxen, not more than five years old, \$5; best lot of pork made from spring pigs, not to exceed ten months old when killed, and not less than six in number, \$6; and for the best fattened and largest spring pigs, two in number, of a different lot, \$4. Stimulated by this society, new inhabitants and fresh importations of stock, the dairy business was now pursued to an extent and with a success that was said to be "scarcely surpassed." Not only were cheese and butter among the surplus productions of the farmers, but pork, lard and beef, as well. Wool had also been added to the agricultural products of the locality, and considerable rye, corn and oats were raised.

An institution, which for the good work it has done in the county should be held in grateful remembrance, is the Wind-

ham County Temperance Society. Beginning with the year 1828 local temperance societies were organized in the different towns, and April 20th, 1829, a meeting was held at the court house in Brooklyn at which a county society was organized. The first officers of this society were: Darius Matthewson, president; Daniel Frost, George Benson and Hon. Ebenezer Stoddard, vice presidents; Reverend Ambrose Edson, secretary; Edwin Newbury, treasurer; Reverend Samuel J. May, Thomas Hough, Uriel Fuller, Esq., John Holbrook, Esq., and Major Asa May, executive committee. In the organization of the county society local societies were represented, having an aggregate membership of four hundred and seventy-five, from the following places: Canterbury, Brooklyn, Pomfret, Killingly, Hampton, Chaplin, North Woodstock and West Woodstock. A year later the membership represented was increased by some three hundred more, and additional societies were represented from Ashford, Eastford, North Killingly and Plainfield.

It would be interesting to recite many of the episodes of that attempt of progressive men to bring under subjection the great curse of intemperance. Earnest work was done, and the friends of sobriety rallied to the support of the cause. Temperance lectures were delivered, the pledge circulated and personal influence of men and women enlisted in the work. A marked change was discoverable ere many months had passed away. The quantity of liquors sold was very perceptibly lessened. But the advocates of temperance had much to contend with both from the rum-drinkers and rum-sellers and those who professed to be favorable to sobriety and good order as well. Tippling was not then as unpopular as it is now, and those who took a stand to oppose it were obliged to face popular notions of long standing and firm hold upon the appetites, interests or prejudices of the people. Public quarterly meetings of the society were held successively at Ashford, Pomfret, Woodstock and Canterbury. At the meeting held at Pomfret the celebrated lecture by Doctor John Marsh, entitled "Putnam and the Wolf, or the Monster destroyed," was delivered. This was immediately published and very widely circulated. The proprietors of factories and factory villages were generally temperance men and they encouraged their employees, as much as possible, to sign the pledge and to become accustomed to temperance habits. In Eastford the people had occasion to move their meeting house

down a steep hill-side, the building having been sold to a private party. A great crowd of people were present, to help as help on such occasions is generally furnished. With the help of nearly a hundred oxen they had started the building down its perilous descent when a chain broke. In accordance with the custom in such cases, treat was demanded, but the purchaser of the building, being a temperance man, refused. High words and threats followed, but they failed to bring forth the "treat." Finally the men became so huffed that they decamped, taking their oxen with them, leaving the meeting house suspended. But there were temperance men enough in the vicinity, and they quickly rallied and the removal of the building was carried forward to completion, without a drop of liquor.

At the anniversary of the Windham County Temperance Society, July 4th, 1830, Reverend Daniel Dow was the orator of the day. At the following anniversary, that of 1831, which was held at Pomfret, a stirring and eloquent address was delivered by Doctor Wilbur Fisk of Wesleyan University. For several years the work of temperance reform was carried forward by this society with unabated vigor. Meetings were frequently held, both in the meeting houses and in the different school houses, and the question was kept thoroughly agitated and the people were instructed. Successive presidents of the society were, after Mr. Frost, George S. White, Solomon Payne and Andrew T. Judson. In 1834 the membership numbered 635, which number may have increased somewhat in later years, but was probably never greatly augmented.

CHAPTER X.

PUBLIC CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS.

The Towns' Poor.—Early Methods of dealing with Dependents.—Increase of Burdens by the French War.—Meagre Fare and Accommodations.—Emigration and Temperance decreases the Burdens.—Present Costs and Management of the Poor.—Children's Temporary Home.—Its Management and present successful Work.—The Record of Crime in Windham County.—Capital Punishment.—Execution of Criminals.—Elizabeth Shaw, Caleb Adams, Samuel Freeman, Oliver Watkins.—Other notable Crimes.—Jail Buildings.—Their Occupants.—Removal from Windham to Brooklyn.—Official Keepers.—Statistics of the present Jail.

“THE poor ye have always with you ;” yet in the early days of Windham county history there was little call for public aid. In a certain sense, everybody was poor. Even those who owned farms and houses had few ways of gaining money. The old and feeble, idiotic and insane, were cared for by their own families if it were in any way practicable. An amended act of assembly, May, 1715, expressly provided that the relations of such poor impotent persons, in the line or degree of father or grandfather, mother or grandmother, children or grandchildren, shall relieve such poor persons, . . . on pain that every one failing therein shall forfeit twenty shillings for every month's neglect, etc. Much neighborly sympathy and aid lightened these heavy burdens. If through age or misfortune any of the stated inhabitants of the town became greatly impoverished, their fellow townsmen considered these circumstances and in many cases granted relief from taxpaying and public burdens. Their charity, however, began and ended at home. For stragglers, vagabonds, transients, there was no relief nor mercy. Citizens harboring such strangers for even a few days without certifying the selectmen of the town were liable to fine or heavy damages. New comers preparing to settle in a town were subjected to severe scrutiny, and if they could not give good account of themselves, or seemed likely to prove “unwholesome” or undesirable inhabitants, they were

peremptorily ordered to depart. It is traditionally affirmed that some families which in time attained good position and wealth were at first "warned out of town." It was thought wiser policy to pay constables' bills for "traveling after such persons to warn them out of town" than to run the risk of a longer sojourn. Yet, with all their care, impositions were not always evaded. One Christian Challenge, a wandering beggar woman, having been "rode over on the Sabbath day, either wilfully or carelessly," brought "extraordinary charges" upon Norwich and Windham. The case of Peter Davison, the idiot son of a widowed mother, having her residence in Mortlake manor (now Brooklyn), involved Pomfret in troublesome and expensive controversy. Mortlake having no town officers, Mrs. Davison applied to the selectmen of Pomfret for aid, whereupon it was voted in town meeting "That we are not obliged by law nor conscience to take the charge upon ourselves, . . . and if she do offer to impose the same upon the town, we desire the selectmen to follow her in the law as a trespasser at the town charge." The poor boy was then hustled off to Norwich, his birthplace, but as "it was none of their business," the town officers straightway sent him back to Pomfret. The matter was finally referred to the newly organized court of Windham county, June, 1726, which affirmed that it "had no power or authority to assign said idiot to any particular place or provide for his future support;" and thus he was left in charge of needy relatives. Another "distracted person," Robert Culborn, who had the added misfortune of living upon disputed territory, was bowled back and forth between Windham and Canterbury, each town refusing to assume his support—a process little calculated to modify his distraction. In ordinary cases, where the claim of the applicant was undisputed, the selectmen of a town took charge of such persons or families as needed help, procuring nurse and medical attendance, and speeding them on their way as soon as circumstances permitted. As, for example, Joseph A.'s wife, of Woodstock, "unable to take care of herself and in a suffering condition," the selectmen having taken care of her at the town's cost, these officials were desired "to take the prudentest care, and move her as soon as they can, and keep her husband to work, as the law directs."

The public charges brought upon the towns by the French and Indian war, together with the support of French refugees

who were distributed among them, made the care of their own poor more burdensome. The large town of Killingly was especially burdened, so that it was compelled to raise a tax of a penny a pound for the support of its poor—persons taking charge of such poor receiving their pay in specie, *i. e.*, in corn, rye, wheat, beans, pork and flax, at specified price. Between 1765 and 1770, an almost simultaneous attempt was made by the several towns to procure a permanent home for the poor, which home was also to be a workhouse that idle and dissolute persons might be put therein and employed; but it is doubtful if in any town these efforts were successful.

The number of poor claiming and receiving public aid was largely multiplied after the war of the revolution, while the resources of the towns were proportionately crippled. To many disabled veterans, war widows and fatherless children were now added the victims of intemperate drinking, which had become very prevalent during that period. The towns found it exceedingly difficult to find places in private homes for all that needed them. Many who had places of residence and friends to care for them, but no means of support, received aid from the public treasury toward vital necessities, rum and medical attendance. The strictest economy was observed in all these expenditures. The selectmen were emphatically enjoined "to let out the poor to the lowest bidder." Pomfret, with unusual consideration, enacted "to make the best disposition of the poor for their comfort and the least expense to the town by putting them to one man or otherwise." The custom then came into vogue of "putting up the poor at vendue" on town meeting days, to be bid off by such as were willing to assume the charge. Prices varied from one and sixpence to five shillings a week, according to the infirmity of the subject or the work that could be gotten out of him. This practice, though perhaps less inhuman than appears on the surface, was distasteful to the towns, and continual efforts were made to secure a permanent home for those who were public charges. Pomfret was apparently the first to succeed in these efforts, voting in 1796 "to build a house for the poor on land belonging to the town, now occupied by William Stone—to be 60x14 feet, 4 rooms, one story high, 2 stacks of chimneys, 2 cellars—Selectmen to have charge of the same." Other towns succeeded in time in buying or hiring houses for the accommodation of their poor, entrusting their care to the man who

"would do it cheapest." It is doubtful if the comfort of the poor was enhanced by thus bringing them together under one keeper or master. "*Poorhouses*" they were in every sense of the word. "How do you like your new home?" was asked of old Martha Sousaman, the last Indian in Killingly, taken to the poorhouse when her wigwam was blown over. "Pretty well," she answered, "'cos they live just like Injuns." The administrative policy of those days was stern and rigid. Drunkenness, laziness, shiftlessness, brought the great majority to the poorhouse, and justice demanded that they should bear the penalty. That innocent women and children should suffer for the sins of husbands and fathers was but in accordance with Divine command and prophecy. To pamper paupers was inexpedient if not wrong. A bare living for those who would starve without aid was all that justice demanded of the towns. Under this Gradgrind theory the poorhouses were administered with little or no regard for the comfort and well-being of their inmates. Men, women and children, the deceased, vicious, imbecile and lunatic, were huddled together in cramped, unhealthy quarters and supplied with the cheapest and plainest articles of food. The very thought of the town's poorhouse was a terror to the respectable poor, who would suffer extremity of want before yielding to this dire necessity. Yet cases of actual abuse and ill usage, such as were common in English workhouses or in larger cities in our own country, were apparently unknown. The selectmen, if harsh, were honest and conscientious in their treatment, and as in other New England communities, "neighbors" served as self-appointed "vigilance committees," eager to spy out and report any act of abuse or neglect.

As westward emigration, the temperance reform, enlarged business operations and multiplied manufactories diminished the number which demanded public aid, their condition was greatly improved. Pomfret again took the lead as early as 1820 in voting to purchase real estate for the benefit of the poor, and one by one the other towns fell into line in purchasing a town farm, furnishing a permanent home for all that needed it, and healthful exercise for those who were not disabled. The style of living was gradually improved, the sick and aged better cared for, old people indulged with an occasional cup of tea and even allowed to sweeten it. Within the present generation there is a return to the old method of helping needy poor in their own

homes, so that the number of permanent residents at the several poorhouses is much reduced, especially in the farming towns. These permanent inmates are almost invariably of pure New England stock, Catholics, foreigners and colored people preferring to be cared for by their own churches or by their family and society connection. A few disabled, or superannuated or imbecile men and women find comfortable homes and thoughtful care in the houses provided by the towns. Insane or dangerous persons are now transferred to the State Lunatic Asylum; children are sent to their special Home, provided by the county. The number of these permanent residents in the old farming towns averages less than ten in each. Woodstock, with a population of 2,639, paid for her poorhouse in 1887, \$1,196.47; for outside poor, \$1,653.98. Thompson, population 5,051, paid for poorhouse in 1888, \$1,157.70; for outside poor, \$1,901.69. In towns where manufacturing prevails the conditions are changed, and a much larger number require temporary aid. Killingly is especially noted for its interest in her permanent beneficiaries, numbering among her institutions an annual New Year's visit to the poorhouse. The foreign element in Willimantic, its large manufactories and abnormal growth bring very heavy expenses upon the town of Windham, especially in relation to its poor. Thirteen insane and idiotic persons are supported by the town. During the past year an average of forty-one persons was maintained at the almshouse at the cost of \$5,667.10. A large number of outside poor were also assisted in various ways, costing the town \$2,510.54. Convenient buildings have been provided and great pains have been taken to make the Windham almshouse a model institution.

For many years the condition of children growing up in the poorhouses of Connecticut was exceedingly unfavorable. Not only was it impossible to give them proper physical, mental or moral training, but the continued association with a class of worn out, diseased, demoralized and sometimes degraded town charges, was in every way depressing and unsalutary. It seemed almost a miracle that such children should rise above their surroundings, and in too many cases they were graduated from the poorhouse to the reform school or penitentiary. It was the policy and practice of the selectmen to find homes for these homeless children, but in many cases they were seriously injured before removal. The state board of charities interested

itself in their behalf and by persistent agitation procured the passage of a legislative act in 1883, providing that each county in the state should establish a home for orphan or homeless children by January 1st, 1884, and appropriating \$1,000 to each county to start and furnish the same, and empowering the county commissioners to purchase or hire property for that purpose.

Windham county was one of the first in the state to take advantage of this act and opportunity. Messrs. J. D. Converse, Thompson, and E. H. Hall, Willimantic, county commissioners, visited several towns in search of a suitable location, and made temporary choice of the house of H. O. Preston, Putnam Heights, where the home was opened November 20th, 1883, under charge of Mr. and Mrs. Preston. Three children from Thompson were the first admitted and during the first year the number continued very small. Town officers and tax payers, already burdened with heavy charges for the poorhouse, outside poor and other expenses, opposed the new institution as an unnecessary outlay, and the general public was slow to apprehend its value. One or two special cases of relief to children suddenly left destitute opened the eyes of some, and the improved condition of the children as seen at the annual meeting deepened the good impression. When it was understood that the home was intended as a temporary abiding place, and that the children therein cared for were much more readily adopted into suitable families, and much more likely to grow up into useful members of society, the prejudice wore away, and the towns began to send their poorhouse children more freely. During the three years' continuance at Putnam Heights under the faithful care of Mr. and Mrs. Preston the children's home gained in public favor and the number of applicants steadily increased. In August, 1886, the county had the good fortune to receive a deed of the Giles farm in Putnam, with all its buildings and improvements, and a good supply of water at house and barn, for the very moderate sum of \$4,250. Although so far north in the county, yet the easy access to the railroad center at Putnam village, connecting by railroad and mail stage with most of the towns, makes the location very convenient and accessible. Subsequent addition of kitchen and dormitories, with a steam heater and modern conveniences, make a very complete and beautiful establishment, with ample grounds and play-room, most admirably adapted to its purpose. Mr. John D. Converse assumed the

superintendency of the home November 1st, 1886, when the children were removed to the new building. The present number of children under his care is 22, which is about the average. During the past year 24 were admitted and 15 placed in private homes. The whole number received since the institution of the home is 83. The children attend school at the public school house near by, and are intelligent and tractable. Many of them attend church and Sabbath school at the Baptist church in Thompson with Mr. and Mrs. Converse. It would be hard to find a company of happier and healthier children. They wear no uniform, no badge to mark them from other children unless it be their superior good behavior. One only needs to contrast them in thought with the forlorn specimens seen in the ordinary poorhouse to appreciate the good results of this philanthropic institution. It is almost an ideal home, where homeless outcasts receive most kind and judicious care, training and instruction, and one which Windham county will value more and more. Each town has the privilege of appointing a lady visitor, who is allowed full liberty of inspection and suggestion. The annual meeting of all officials connected with the home, together with town officers and any persons specially interested, is made a very pleasant occasion. All its affairs are seen to be administered with wise forethought and economy, the board for children received from the towns, and the profits of the farm, paying all ordinary expenses.

The court records of Hartford and New London before the erection of Windham county preserve no heavier charges against the inhabitants of its infant towns than such rude assaults and misdemeanors as are incident in any early settlement, with the one exception of Ashford. Joseph Wilson, a young farmer of that town, while wrestling with a neighbor, John Aplin, over a disputed game at pennies, received an inward injury which caused his death in a few days. The jurors summoned on inquest gave verdict: "That Wilson came to his death by some strain, or wrench, or blow, or fall, or broke something within his body. We all conclude that was the occasion of his death—John Aplin being with him when he received hurt Dec. 28, 1720."

Aplin was at once indicted on the charge of manslaughter and bound over for trial before the superior court at Hartford, the leading men of the town giving bonds for his appearance.

Though clearly free from any charge of design or malice, yet being also clearly accessory to Wilson's death, great fears were entertained as to the result of the trial. The situation of the young man called out deep sympathy and compassion—"grieved and broken at heart that he should have been in such a manner instrumental in the death of his friend," and yet exposed to severe penalty. The dying man had himself absolved Aplin from intentional blame, and even his wife "did reckon one as much to blame as the other." Neighbors and friends interested themselves strenuously in his behalf, especially urging that he might not be sent to the dismal, fireless jail at Hartford to await his trial. A letter forwarded to Governor Pitkin by Captain John Fitch, of Windham, from old friends who had known him from childhood and testified to his "peaceable and quiet conversation," obtained this boon. Aplin was allowed to remain in Ashford till his trial, March 21st, 1721, when he was acquitted and discharged. The tenderness and humane consideration manifested in this instance were very rare at that period.

The first criminal trial after the organization of Windham county resulted in conviction and execution. Elisabeth Shaw, of Canada parish (now Hampton), Windham, was publicly executed December 18th, 1745, for child murder. She was a poor, simple minded girl, decidedly lacking in mental capacity. Nothing is known of the circumstances of the case except that, having given birth secretly to a living child, she contrived to get away with it and leave it hidden in a ledge of rocks not far from her residence. Her father, a straight laced Puritan, suspected, watched her, and perhaps unable to force her to confession, himself preferred accusation to the town authorities. Search was made and the dead body found. The grand jurors found Elisabeth Shaw guilty of murder, and committed her for trial. This was held September 17th, 1745, Roger Wolcott, chief judge. The facts of the case were easily proved—"that Elisabeth Shaw did secretly hide and dispose of her living child in the woods in said Windham, and did cause to perish said child." Extenuating circumstances had no weight. The mental or physical condition of the unfortunate girl seemed not to have been taken into consideration, and the supreme penalty of the law was pronounced against her. No public effort was apparently made to obtain remission or commutation of sentence. In those stern days the rigid enforcement of law was deemed the only safeguard

of morality. A doubtful tradition hints that Elisabeth's stern father, repentant too late, hurried on to Hartford and procured a reprieve from the governor, but that a sudden storm brought on a freshet, which delayed his return until after the execution. On the appointed day a gallows was set up on a hill a mile southwest from Windham Green. An immense crowd of spectators gathered there to meet the mournful procession, reaching from hill to jail, headed by the cart in which upon her coffin sat the condemned victim, praying continuously "Oh Jesus, have mercy upon my soul!" through the dreadful "death march" and the prescribed religious ceremonies. One official entry completes the harrowing chronicle: "Allowed Mr. Sheriff Huntington, for cost and expense of doing execution on Elisabeth Shaw, £29, 5s."

The second murder reported in Windham county was committed by Anne, a negro girl twelve years of age, owned by Mr. Samuel Clark, of Pomfret, in November, 1795. While playing with her master's daughter, Martha, a little girl of five years, she was made so angry by some trifling circumstance, "not having the fear of God before her eyes, but moved by the Devil," that she snatched a sharp knife that chanced to be near her and cut the child's throat so that she bled to death almost instantly. With remarkable coolness and cunning she immediately rushed out and gave the alarm, crying out that "a shack had killed little Martha." Her story was at first believed by the distressed household and neighbors, but suspicious circumstances appearing, a skillful cross-examination elicited the truth. Anne was taken to Windham jail, tried, convicted and sentenced. Thirty-nine lashes were inflicted upon her naked body, the letter M stamped upon her hand, and she was confined for life within the jail limits.

Eight years later another child was murdered in Pomfret, under circumstances of cool deliberation and settled malice. This occurred in the little neighborhood now known as Jericho, in Abington parish, near the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Sharpe, a kindly elderly pair, uncle and aunt to the whole community. Childless themselves, they often cared for homeless children, and according to a frequent custom had bound themselves to the care of Caleb Adams, a motherless boy of weak intellect and morbid temper, whom they treated with great kindness. When Caleb was about seventeen years old they took a younger boy into their family, Oliver Woodworth, nephew to

Uncle Reuben, a very bright and winning little fellow, who naturally became the pet of the household. Caleb's jealous disposition was excited by the attention paid to Oliver, and his spleen was further aggravated by the pranks and tricks of the little boy, who took a childish delight in teasing his surly comrade. One day when Caleb was pulling beans in the field, Oliver came out to him with his sled and asked him to go a-graping with him, and agreed at first to wait for him and help him on his job, but soon became tired of it and asked him for his sled, which Caleb had put over the wall. Upon Caleb's refusal, Oliver went himself for the sled, whereupon Caleb snatched it away and flung it up into an apple tree, telling the boy that if he got it again he would be sorry for it. Oliver immediately pulled it down, and doubtless looked defiance at the big boy who was trying to master him. Caleb at once determined to kill his childish adversary, and laid his plans accordingly. Quite possibly the murder of Martha Clarke, which he must have heard discussed, might suggest to him this way of ridding himself of a troublesome rival. Calmly and pleasantly he now volunteered to go at once for the grapes, first helping to get a new tongue for the sled. The delighted boy went with him back to the house, helped grind the butcher's knife and carry the implements for his own destruction, and went gaily prattling with his companion into the deep woods, when a blow from the axe stunned and felled him.

And then his senses came back to him. From the moment of "that first fierce impulse unto crime," Caleb had thought of nothing but how he should carry it out. He thought of no resulting consequences. "The devil," he said, "led me on till I had done it and then left me." He could not even carry out his design of flaying the boy and hanging him up like a butchered animal. His impulse now led him to shrink from the sight of men and he traveled off some miles to the residence of an uncle. Night brought no boys to Uncle Reuben's hearthstone. Neighbors were aroused, search made, and the mangled body of the little favorite brought to light. Caleb was traced and examined. At first denying the charge he was soon brought to make confession of the crime and committed to Windham jail September 15th, 1803. The greatest interest in the case was manifested throughout the county, and the attendance upon the trial was so large that the court adjourned to the meeting house. No in-

vestigation could lessen the blackness of the deed, the question at issue was the responsibility of its perpetrator. The criminal had been tainted even before his birth. It was affirmed and "supported by credible testimony," that before the birth of Caleb his father had become so infatuated with a woman of the vilest character as to persist in keeping her at his own house with her idiot child, to the infinite distress of his outraged wife, who died from grief and mortification a few months after the birth of her son. Two months after her death Adams married his paramour, who took charge of Caleb until her own death, after which he was left in the hands of any one who would keep him for a trifle. It was said that his general aspect and facial motions thoroughly resembled those of the idiot child whose presence had so distressed his mother, and that he now exhibited an innate and abnormal delight in inflicting torture upon animals, together with a strong predisposition for lying, stealing and other vicious practices, while he had been debarred from counteracting influences and judicious training. But all these facts and the alleged insanity of his father which might indicate hereditary mental unsoundness, only served to convince judge and jury of his unfitness to live and the necessity of keeping him from further mischief. A petition signed by many sympathetic persons was laid before the general assembly in his behalf, but that body declined to interfere with what it called "the course of justice." Very great interest was manifested in the prisoner's religious condition, many ministers and Christian people visiting him in his cell and laboring to bring him to right views of himself and his situation. He had an especially affecting interview with his kind friends, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Sharpe—when Mrs. Sharpe in particular was reported as "very tenderly affected towards him, and treated him with Christian compassion, freely forgiving him and hoping that God would also forgive him." As is frequent in such cases, Caleb seemed quite to enjoy his notoriety and played his part with great propriety. His execution, November 20th, 1803, was made a grand scenic exhibition, affording the highest satisfaction to many thousand sympathetic spectators. Divine service was held on the Green before the meeting house. Caleb walked to the place of public worship accompanied by the high sheriff, Shubael Abbe, and a number of ministers, "exhibiting on a serene countenance signs of deep and solemn thought." Reverend Samuel Nott, of Franklin, opened

the service with a pathetic and well-adapted prayer, which was followed by a sermon from Reverend Elijah Waterman, of Windham, upon Luke XI, 35—"Take heed therefore, that the light that is in thee be not darkness"—a solemn and appropriate discourse upon the nature and power of conscience. The immense congregation was then told that Caleb had specially requested to receive the ordinance of baptism before execution, and leave his dying testimony in favor of the religion that supported him. He then ascended the stage or temporary pulpit, and made audible confession of his faith and was baptized by Reverend Walter Lyon, of Abington, his former pastor. On his way to the gallows he conversed freely upon the ground of his hope and the support it gave him that through Jesus Christ he should find mercy, and gazed upon it with countenance unmoved, finding strength in prayer and passages of Scripture. An address was now made by Reverend Moses C. Welch, of Mansfield, stating some facts in the prisoner's life with appropriate reflections and remarks. Before and after this address, Caleb kneeled and prayed with composure in words well suited to convey his feelings and desires—that he might obtain mercy and final forgiveness of sins through Christ; that he might be supported in the trying moment; that all might be for the glory of God; and particularly, that the people might take warning by his end and forsake the ways of sin. Mr. Lyon "then addressed the Throne of Grace in language the most interesting and affectionate, at the close of which the criminal was launched into eternity." The tender-hearted sheriff burst into tears after performing his most painful duty, and a deep and lasting impression was made upon all who had witnessed this remarkable ceremony.

In less than two years, on November 6th, 1805, Windham was treated to its third public execution—that of Samuel Freeman, of Rhode Island, a temporary resident of Ashford, a colored man of mixed Negro and Indian blood and vicious character, who in a fit of drunken rage took the life of an Indian woman with whom he was consorting. The trial and execution were conducted with the customary formalities and attracted the inevitable crowd of spectators, whose satisfaction in this case was unalloyed with any troublesome questionings as to the justice of the penalty, or any sentimental sympathy with the degraded subject.

The murder of one of Woodstock's most promising young men the same November called out very different emotions. Marcus Lyon, a descendant of one of Woodstock's substantial old families, returning from a summer sojourn at Cazenovia, New York, was attacked by two desperate ruffians at Wilbraham, Mass., most barbarously murdered, robbed and thrown into Chicopee river. Some peculiar indications observed and reported by a little boy led to the discovery of the body, which was taken out and identified and tidings sent to his home in West Woodstock. The story spread like wildfire through the town and the population sallied out *en masse* to meet the mournful procession bringing the murdered man back to his old home. A still greater multitude assembled at the Baptist meeting house to witness the funeral ceremonies conducted by Reverend Biel Ledoyt. The shocking circumstances, the tears and lamentations of mourning friends, the deep emotion permeating the vast assembly presented a scene seldom witnessed in a rural township. Several elegies and ballads were called out by this event, perpetuating the memory of this lamented youth. We quote from one giving full details :

“ A shocking story to relate
 When on his way from New York state
 To Woodstock, to his native home,
 As far as Wilbraham he come.
 Then some past noon on Saturday
 Two ruffians did this man waylay,
 They murdered him most barbarously
 And threw him in a river nigh
 Four rods from whence they murdered him.
 They left the body in the stream;
 The stone they did upon him lay
 Upwards of sixty pounds did weigh.
 A boy he sees them on the ground
 Where marks of violence were found;
 Blood in abundance to be seen,
 He tells the place, describes the men.
 On Sunday evening light they took
 Along the river for to look ;
 One says: ‘ Come here, I something see,
 Near to that rock it seems to be.’
 Then on it he attempts to get.
 The stone gave way under his feet—
 Oh, what a sight ! Oh, what a sight !
 For to behold here in the night;
 The stone slips off, then did arise
 A bloody corpse before their eyes !

A jury then was summoned
The inquest of the murdered;
His skull was broke, his side shot through,
His face disfigured by a blow,
Two pistols near the place were found,
Much bruised the trimmings all around,
Besmeared with blood and human hair
To all beholders did appear.
At dead of night the people send
The heavy news unto his friends.
Before sunrise his mother had
News that her son was murdered.
His mother said, 'Oh! in this way
I never thought my child to see!
I've husband lost and children too
Trouble like this I never knew.'
On Wednesday was the funeral;
Hard hearts indeed not here to feel.
Such bitter mourning never was—
Knowing the corpse and then the cause.
His mother lost a lovely son,
His only brother left alone;
Three sisters to bemoan the fate
Of their dear brother, died of late.
Among the mourning friends we find
To mourn he left his love behind,
Who did expect the coming spring
In mutual love to marry him.
Dejected now, disconsolate,
Often his cruel death relates,
Then wipes her eyes again, again,
Telling the cruelty to him.
His age was nearly twenty-three,
Was mild, affectionate and free,
His heart benevolent and kind,
His equal scarcely can we find.
A pretty youth beloved by all,
By old and young, by great and small,
By rich and poor, by high and low,
By every one who did him know."

By a quite remarkable chance the murderers were discovered and publicly hung in Worcester, a large number of Windham county residents enjoying the privilege of attendance.

The tendency of certain crimes to become epidemic is often marked. Even the decorous and conservative town of Thompson indulged in a murder excitement and trial at about the same date of the preceding. Ebenezer Starr, the popular landlord of the Brandy Hill tavern, while violently disputing with the well

known physician, Doctor Thomas Weaver, died instantly from rupture on the brain. Though it was quite obvious that "passion was the cause of his death," public opinion demanded the arrest and trial of Doctor Weaver on charge of manslaughter. He was acquitted of the crime, but nevertheless sentenced to a public whipping and branding on the hand as a punishment for his assumed agency in arousing such angry passions.

Thompson was also variously implicated in the counterfeiting epidemic, which was exceedingly prevalent in those days of poverty and bad money. Its frontier position, cornering upon Massachusetts and Rhode Island, furnished admirable facilities for illicit enterprise, enabling fugitives from justice to dodge back and forth from pursuing officers. A professional expert from New Hampshire availed himself of these peculiar advantages, brought down die and tools, and enticed a simple minded rustic to join with him in counterfeiting silver money. This work was carried on in a cave in the Buck hill woods, while the simple young man engaged in outside trade, buying up produce and stock, for which he paid in spurious coin. One good silver dollar was made to cover a number of the counterfeit, and money became very abundant. It is said that many recipients suspected something wrong, but quietly connived in the young man's business operations. His own folly at length brought the matter to light. "The goose that laid the golden eggs" committed suicide in this instance. Intoxicated with the rare delight of plenty of spending money, the young man insisted upon treating all his friends in all the taverns about town, squaring the accounts with his new silver dollars. Such unprecedented freeness and flushness aroused suspicions which led to investigation and discovery. His sudden arrest carried consternation to his self-seeking aiders and abettors, who hid away in meal chests and outhouses till the excitement subsided. The crafty old offender evaded capture; his victim escaped trial by forfeiture of bonds and went out west, returning after a few years a sadder and wiser man to settle down into a sober and law abiding citizen. Some years later, a larger gang, in the same vicinity, engaged in manufacturing fraudulent bank notes, which ended in exposure and punishment, the ringleaders suffering prolonged imprisonment.

The first and only execution after the removal of the county seat to Brooklyn was that of Oliver Watkins, a resident of Ster-

ling, for strangling his wife. The crime was clearly proven, although Watkins refused to make confession, and denied his guilt with his latest breath. The trial, sentence and preparations for execution excited the usual interest. Captain David Keyes, of Ashford, resigned his position of high sheriff to escape official service. Roger Coit, of Plainfield, was appointed to succeed him, and carried through the law's requirements. In expectation of the coming influx, landlords and liquor sellers provided vast supplies of all kinds of liquor, and hired a special guard to keep watch of the criminal the night before execution, lest he should commit suicide or in any way escape. A gallows was set up in a hollow between Brooklyn and Danielsonville, where the vast multitude of spectators crowding its sloping sides enjoyed a distinct view of the whole proceedings. Long before the break of day, August —, 1831, the various roads were thronged with wagons and foot travelers, single men and families, coming from all parts of Windham county and adjacent states. The ceremony was conducted with the usual formalities. Prayer was offered by a well known minister, and then Reverend George Tillotson, the youthful pastor of the Congregational church of Brooklyn, preached a most solemn and impressive sermon upon the words, "Be sure your sin will find you out," followed by prayer. As he pronounced the fateful "Amen" with such composure and distinctness as to be heard by each one "of the thousands who listened for it with the most absorbing interest, in stillness that seemed rather of the dead than of the living," the drop fell and the forfeited life was taken. The deep solemnity which marked the exercises profoundly impressed the vicious minded, and it is said that in the religious revival that followed "not a few dated their first heart purpose to turn from their sins from the sayings and scenes of that awful day." On the other hand, an eye witness* gives his testimony, "that there were never half so many drunk at any one time and place in this county;" that the throng was so vast that long before night not a mouthful could be procured in the village either to eat or drink except water, and there were reports of conduct which ought "to make a Feejee Islander blush."

As soon as possible after the formation of Windham county, August 18th, 1726, the justices ordered "that a gaol be built with all possible expedition, 31 x 18. The gaol to be ten foot wide,

* The late Isaac T. Hutchins, West Killingly.

built of logs all framed into posts, and be divided into two rooms by a board partition; one to have a small fire-place or chimney. The other end to be for the prison-house; to be built after the manner of other ordinary framed buildings, having a chimney with the back to the gaol; the (gaol) room to be $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet between joints and having a cellar under it 14×12 ." This building sufficed for prison accommodation till the period following the great revival of 1742, when many Separates and what were deemed religious schismatics were imprisoned for holding religious services contrary to law and refusing to pay rates for the support of the stated churches. The Separate ministers, Elisha and Solomon Paine, Alexander and Peter Miller, Thomas Marsh, and many zealous exhorters and conscientious opposers of compulsory taxation for religious purposes, were thus imprisoned, so that the justices were compelled to add a new story to the jail and send many offenders to Hartford for safe keeping. Very great excitement prevailed at this epoch, crowds of people flocking to the jail to hear their favorite ministers, who by giving bonds were allowed to preach in the jail yard, while law abiding citizens sent rescripts to the sheriff desiring him "to shut the prison doors and keep the people out." It is evident that considerable liberty was allowed to prisoners at that time, as some specially obnoxious Separates complained of being "closely locked up" and denied the liberty of the yard, while notorious offenders confined on criminal charges were allowed to go about the town. Letters from worthy Christian ministers confined in Windham jail "on the sole presentment of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ," report their "close confinement in most distressing circumstances as to our bodies, and their families reduced or exposed to difficulties too affecting to relate." Next in number to these religious offenders were the imprisoned debtors who were allowed a range within certain limits, and such as were unable to pay worked out their debt in various services. In 1762, the jail yard was reported in a decaying state. In 1774, extensive repairs were made, and a farthing tax ordered throughout the county to meet the outlay. During the early days of the revolution, the citizens of Windham county were greatly annoyed "by their situation in regard to a sheriff, which place in their opinion was very badly supplied," the incumbent, Colonel Eleazer Fitch, a very capable and popular military officer, unfortunately failing to participate in the

popular movement and remaining loyal to England and its king, yet so great was his personal popularity that it was not till after the escape of noted prisoners that citizens of the county petitioned for his removal. He was succeeded December, 1776, by Captain Jabez Huntington, "whose principles were far more agreeable" to the public, as one not likely to exhibit undue leniency to inimical Tories and prisoners of war. The jails were now filled to overflowing, each encounter with the enemy bringing fresh recruits, so that it was difficult to keep and guard them. Mr. A. E. Brooks, Main street, Hartford, has at his place of business a rare and curious memento of this period—the image of Bacchus, striding a wine cask, carved out of a block of pine in Windham jail, by four seamen of H. M. S. "Bombrig," captured June 10th, 1776, by a party under command of Captain Nathan Hale. Edward Sneyd, captain; John Coggin, boat-swain; John Russel, carpenter, and William Cook, sailor, were the aforesaid prisoners and carvers of this remarkable revolutionary relic. They were evidently jolly fellows, devotees of the jovial god, and having been permitted through the laxity of Sheriff Fitch to enjoy the good cheer of the Windham taverns, they left this specimen of their handiwork as a parting testimonial of gratitude and regard to the popular landlady, Widow Carey, when they made their escape from the jail. Bacchus was immediately installed as an appropriate figure-head for the tavern, and for many years occupied a high position among the tutelary divinities of the gay old town.

After the close of the war Windham jail became even more popular. Tories and inimical persons were indeed required to keep out of town, but the number who suffered imprisonment for debts incurred in the service of their country was painfully large. Men of high position and character, earnest and self-sacrificing patriots, were confined within the jail limits. These limits were defined, 1782, from the jail to Captain Tinker's house, then to Samuel Grey's trading shop, on to Thomas Reed's work shop, and to Major Harbyton's blacksmith shop—then, a straight line to the tavern sign post, and west to an elm tree in front of John Staniford's dwelling house. In 1784, it was ordered that a yard twelve feet high be erected around the jail, as soon as the money could be procured from the county. The limits of the jail were again confirmed in 1786, but prisoners were forbidden to enter dwelling houses; allowed to enter work shops used for mechanical purposes.

Very little can be learned of the condition of Windham jail from this date onward till its removal to Brooklyn. During this interval a new building was probably erected, but the precise date is difficult to ascertain. Very little can be learned either of the treatment of prisoners, but it was probably such as prevailed in other jails during that period, modified by an unusual degree of outside liberty. Exposure to cold, damp and filthy quarters and the promiscuous herding of all grades of criminals, were its most repulsive features.

After an arduous struggle the county seat was removed from Windham. July 26th, 1820, it was found that a convenient court house and jail had been provided in Brooklyn. The court house was newly erected; jail and prisoners had been removed from Windham to the site now occupied by the Episcopal church. Jail limits were assigned and Ebenezer Baker appointed keeper of the jail, but was soon succeeded by William Tyber. Attempts were soon made to establish a county work-house and house of correction. Among the great reformatory movements for bettering the condition of mankind the treatment of criminals was included. Philanthropists labored to reduce crime and reform the criminal; town officers to reduce the tax list. Under this double stimulus great changes were made. The feasibility of providing remunerative labor for prisoners in confinement was carefully considered. Six acres of land were procured a little west of the village and new brick buildings erected. In 1842 the prisoners were removed to this new Windham county jail, and thenceforward employed, when practicable, in cultivating the land and other outdoor labor. The good effect of this experiment upon the health and conduct of the prisoners led to its permanent adoption. Under the judicious and careful management of Mr. John S. Searls, appointed jailor in 1847, the outdoor working of the prisoners was much extended and systematized. Continued employment was sought out both in summer and winter, in digging, carting, wood cutting, harvesting and any specie of out labor for all such as were not compelled to be kept in close confinement, their wages accruing to the county. A committee on prisons, appointed by the general assembly, May, 1865, the late Charles Osgood, of Pomfret, chairman, reports of Windham:

“The jail at Windham is a substantial brick building, erected in 1842, pleasantly located near the village, and with the out-

buildings, including a spacious barn recently erected, and all its surroundings in first class order. The prisoners for years past have been employed almost wholly at outdoor labor, at whatever kind of work and wherever they could be employed to the best advantage. The commissioners receive \$3.00 per day and no charge for travel or expenses.

"Number of prisoners in jail, June 17, five. The present indebtedness of the county is \$367.31, occasioned by building a barn and an addition to the jail for a female department in 1863, at an expense of nearly \$2,000.

"The result in this county of the prudent management of its affairs, the manner of working prisoners and the reasonable and honest charges of its officials, is, that all the ordinary and the greater part of the extraordinary expenses of the county, including extensive repairs and additions to the court house and jail and the erection of new buildings, *have been paid* and that, too, without calling upon the towns in the county for either tax, contribution or assessment for *more than twenty years*."

This good record was maintained through the twenty-six years of Mr. Searls' faithful service, and has been mainly attained by his successors, though in consequence of the increasing demands and large expenditure of the present era the county cannot always succeed in carrying out its ideal of making its prisoners pay all its running expenses. Their earnings, however, added to what is received from the state for board of prisoners, make the jail considerably more than self-supporting year by year, and provide for repairs, additions and modern improvements, with a balance in favor of the county. Fortunately in this rural town there is no conflict with other classes of laborers. Farm help has become so scarce and dear that the farmers welcome aid from this source, and in many cases can carry on their farms with prisoners' help at special seasons. Perhaps ten thousand bushels of corn were husked and as many bushels of potatoes dug by the prisoners last autumn, and there is no difficulty in finding jobs of work throughout the year. The physical effect of this outdoor labor is very marked, and the consumption of food proportionably larger than by prisoners kept in close confinement. Continual efforts are made for their mental and moral improvement. Through the forethought of Mr. Sibley, the present jailor, a prison library has been instituted, supplied with suitable books and papers, which are constantly in demand

and greatly appreciated. A religious service is held once in two weeks by the chaplain, Reverend E. S. Beard, and a monthly meeting is held by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. This temperance effort is especially called for as at least three-fourths of the prisoners are brought there through the use and abuse of liquor. Yet though great pains are taken to enlighten and reform, it is to be feared that the good impressions produced are seldom lasting. Much good seed falls apparently on stony ground, but it can at least be said that the influence of prison life is salutary, and that no man or woman is the worse for confinement in Windham county jail. With regard to women the question has scarcely been tested, so few is the number that have been committed to its precincts. The whole number committed to jail in the year ending June 30th, 1887, was 225; number discharged, 218; average number in confinement, 34. By far the larger proportion were received during the winter when work was not attainable. Over 21 years, 190; under 21 years, 35; natives of Connecticut, 62; of other states, 71; other countries, 92. One man from Connecticut, four from other countries, could not read or write. Drunkenness was the direct charge against 129; 106 called themselves moderate drinkers; one, habitually intemperate; 18 strictly temperate; 113 had been previously in prison; 19 were committed as tramps. Receipts from earnings of prisoners, \$1,857.11; total jail receipts, \$6,426.87; total jail expenditures, \$4,988.37.

CHAPTER XI.

THE BENCH AND BAR OF WINDHAM COUNTY.

Early Attorneys.—Elisha Paine.—Samuel Huntington.—Jabez Fitch.—Eliphalet Dyer.—Jedidiah Elderkin.—Zephaniah Swift.—Thomas Stedman.—David Bolles.—Sylvanus Backus.—Daniel Kies.—Other Windham County Lawyers of Former Times.—Courts Removed to Brooklyn.—The Windham County Bar in 1820.—Chauncey F. Cleveland.—Glimpses of Many Practicing Attorneys.—William Smith Scarborough.—Lucius H. Rickard.—Elliot B. Sumner.—Abiel Converse.—Earl Martin.—Edward Cundall.—John J. Penrose.—George W. Melony.—Seymour A. Tingier.—Benjamin S. Warner.—Calvin M. Brooks.—Albert McC. Mathewson.—Andrew Jackson Bowen.—John L. Hunter.—George A. Conant.—Arthur G. Bill.—Gilbert W. Phillips.—Randolph H. Chandler.—Eric H. Johnson.—Charles E. Searls.—Samuel H. Seward.—Edgar M. Warner.—William G. Buteau.—Ebenezer Stoddard.—Louis B. Cleveland.—Thomas E. Graves.—G. S. F. Stoddard.—John M. Hall.—James H. Potter.—George Larned.—Simon Davis.

WITH the gradual adaptation of the new society of Windham county to the forms and customs of civil order and recognition of the rights of individuals, both personal and proprietary, the need of advocates before the constituted tribunals of justice began to be felt. The profession of the law, distinctively regarded, does not show itself as soon as some other professions—conspicuously, the ministry, school teaching and medicine. But the county was not long organized before the field began to open for the work of the lawyer. At the time of the establishment of the courts in 1726, there was probably no professional attorney residing in the county. When cases were brought before those early courts requiring the services of an advocate they were placed in the hands of attorneys from some neighboring town, frequently from Norwich or Hartford. The first son of Windham to be admitted to its bar as a legal practitioner of whom we have learned, was Jedidiah Elderkin, a young man, who was admitted in 1744. Soon after Eliphalet Dyer, who graduated from Yale College in 1740, at the age of nineteen, studied law, and in 1746 was admitted to the bar of Windham county. These young lawyers entered with much

zeal upon the practice of their profession, and soon ranked among the foremost public men of the day. Law business was beginning to be somewhat brisk, and a large number of cases were reported at every session of the courts. Elisha Paine, Jr., of Canterbury, was also practicing law about that time. In Plainfield, Timothy Pierce was one of its most prominent and respected citizens, a member of the governor's council and judge of the county and probate courts, all of which offices he is said to have executed with such diligence and care as to be unblamable.

Elisha Paine was a man of unusual breadth and force of character, a successful practitioner in law, and universally conceded to have the "best sense of any one in those parts." Of a speculative and inquiring mind, he was prompted to investigate the principles and practices of the different organizations, then conducting public religious exercises, and was soon led to enlist his sympathies with the Separate movement which attracted so much notice during that period. He protested strongly against the practices of the established church and pronounced it sadly lacking in the true religious spirit. So offensive did his position on this subject become that in 1744 he was arrested and imprisoned for several weeks in the county jail, but was at last released on bail. He became absorbed in religious questions and finally abandoned the practice of law for the preaching of the Gospel. He received a call to a church at Bridgehampton, L. I., and in 1752 he attempted to remove his family and personal property thither but was again arrested by the collector of society rates for the support of the established church, which Paine refused to pay, and was again imprisoned in the county jail. After remaining there several weeks he was again set at liberty.

About the middle of the last century Jabez Fitch, son of Doctor Jabez Fitch, was practicing as an attorney in Canterbury. He was made justice of the quorum in 1755, and judge of probate in 1759. Samuel Huntington, son of Nathaniel Huntington, of Scotland, was practicing law in that town at this period. Though early noted for his fondness for books and study, he was apprenticed to a cooper, but so improved his leisure moments that when he had completed his apprenticeship he had not only acquired a competent knowledge of Latin, but had made some progress in the study of law, from books borrowed of Jedidiah Elderkin. Adopting this as his chosen profession, he pursued his studies with indefatigable zeal and perseverance, and was re-

warded with abundant success. Nathan Frink, as king's attorney, was practicing law in Pomfret and adjoining towns. Thomas, son of John Grosvenor, Esq., after graduation from Yale College in 1765, and later preparatory legal studies, also opened a law office on Pomfret street. Eliphalet Dyer and Jedidiah Elderkin, already mentioned as among the early lawyers of the county, were actively engaged for many years in the practice of law at Windham, and ranked among the prominent public men of Connecticut. Among the terrible sounds which were heard in the great frog scare the excessively wrought imaginations of the populace could distinguish the vengeful demands of the approaching foe for the bodies of their leaders, Elderkin and Dyer. Elisha Paine, son of the distinguished advocate of the Separate movement and sufferer for the cause, was about 1765, practicing law at Plainfield, where he was admitted to a prominent position in social and civil affairs.

After the close of the revolution we find among the prominent men of the new generation Zephaniah Swift, of Tolland, established in Windham town, and winning immediate success as a lawyer. Jabez Clark and Samuel Gray, Jr., had married daughters of Colonel Jedidiah Elderkin, and engaged in legal practice. Colonel Ebenezer Gray also resumed the practice of the legal profession, and engaged in public affairs as far as his enfeebled health would permit. Timothy Larrabee and the older lawyers still continued in practice.

Samuel Huntington, one of the most honored members of the bar of Windham county, and distinguished citizens of the colony of Connecticut, has already been mentioned. He deserves a more extended notice than the means at hand or space at our disposal will permit in this connection. He was descended from an ancient and respectable family of this county. His childhood and youth were distinguished by indications of an excellent understanding and a taste for mental improvement. Without the advantage of a collegiate education or that assistance in professional studies which modern times have wisely encouraged, he acquired a competent knowledge of law and was early admitted to the bar and became eminent in his profession. In 1774 he was made an assistant judge in the superior court. In 1775 he was chosen into the council, and in the same year elected a delegate to congress. In 1779 he was made president of that honorable body, and in 1780 was re-elected to the same station of promi-

ence. In 1783 he was again made a member of congress. In 1784 he was chosen lieutenant governor and appointed chief justice of the state. In 1786 he was elected governor of Connecticut and was annually re-elected by the freemen with a singular unanimity until his death. He thus served in that honorable position the longest term, with but two exceptions, that has ever been held by any man during the history of the state. His term lasted nine years and eight months, closing with his death, January 15th, 1796. The exceptions spoken of were Jonathan Trumbull, eleven years and eight months, and Oliver Wolcott, ten years.

Thomas, son of Captain James Stedman, opened a law office on Hampton Hill about the year 1790, occupying a house built for him by his uncle, just north of the meeting house. He greatly distinguished himself in his profession. He was called "one of the most urbane, genteel, intelligent and obliging men of the day." He was rapidly rising in the estimation of the public, and was even mentioned as a candidate for the office of governor of the state, when he was induced to remove to Massena, N. Y., where he quickly won public confidence and respect, and acquired a large landed property. About this time Colonel Thomas Grosvenor was engaged in the legal profession in Pomfret. He served for a time in the governor's council, and was held in high repute throughout the state. His office was a place of constant resort for soldiers of the revolution, Indians, and all who needed help and counsel. At this time Zephaniah Swift, of Windham, was called the ablest lawyer of eastern Connecticut. In Abington John Holbrook was practicing law, occupying the homestead built many years previous by his grandfather, Ebenezer Holbrook. Sylvanus Backus, of Plainfield, opened a law office on Pomfret street and soon took rank among the leading lawyers of the county. His wife was the only surviving daughter of Doctor Waldo. In Ashford William Perkins, son of Isaac Perkins, was practicing law, and was becoming a prominent man in town affairs. David Bolles, after studying medicine for a while, turned his attention to the law and became a competitor of Mr. Perkins in the practice of law in Ashford. He acquired a considerable degree of success, and had secured the favor of the people called "Sectaries" in that and adjoining towns, by his open and uncompromising opposition to any taxation for support of public worship, and to the religious constitution of Connecticut. When a

little boy six years old he had stood by his mother's side, when her precious pewter was taken by the collector and carried to the town post and there sold at auction to pay a "priest tax," and her tears and unavailing remonstrances had such an effect upon his childish mind that he then and there resolved that when he became a man he would fight those laws that had caused his mother such distress. The surroundings of after years strengthened his determination, and his manhood kept the boyish vow. With tongue and pen he fought, until he had become one of the foremost champions of the Baptist cause.

In Canterbury John Dyer was a prominent man in public affairs and legal matters as well. He was colonel of the Eleventh regiment, judge of the county court, deputy in the assembly at times for forty years. In all these public functions he sustained an unblemished reputation, and was called "a man of sound judgment and unbiased integrity." He died February 25th, 1799, in the eighty-seventh year of his age. Moses Cleveland opened a law office in the same town, on his paternal homestead, and engaged with much spirit in public and military affairs. Though hindered by many other engagements from devoting much time to the practice of his profession he could direct others, and many young men studied law in his office. His brother, William Pitt Cleveland, Asa Bacon, Jr., and Rufus Adams, were among those students, and all for a time practiced law in Canterbury. Elisha Paine also opened a law office in his own house in the south part of the town. William Dixon, of Voluntown, engaged in the practice of law in Plainfield about the year 1790.

John Baldwin, of Windham, the son of Ebenezer Baldwin and his wife, Ruth Swift, of Mansfield, was born April 5th, 1772. He was a lawyer, judge of the county court, served one term in congress, and was a man of good abilities and considerably employed as a counselor and in public business. He died March 27th, 1850. John McClellan, son of General Samuel McClellan, graduated from Yale College in 1781, studied law with Governor Huntington and his neighbor, Hon. Charles C. Chandler, was admitted to the bar of Windham county in August, 1787, and remained for a time at the family homestead in Woodstock, succeeding to the practice of his honored instructor. In 1796 he removed to Woodstock Hill, there to continue the practice of his profession, and a few months later married Faith Williams, the only daughter of Hon. William Williams, of Lebanon.

In Sterling, Jeremiah Parish and Artemas Baker attempted legal practice about the close of the last century. During the early years of the present century we find Samuel Perkins, David Young, John Baldwin, John Fitch and Philip Howard actively engaged in legal practice in Windham. At Hampton, Joseph Prentice was established, perhaps as the first lawyer of that town. Other men had been and were then much consulted on legal questions, though not formally credentialled in the profession. Such men were Amasa Clark and Captain Silas Cleveland. In Canterbury Andrew T. Judson, of Eastford, had already gained a flourishing legal practice. Other lawyers in that town were Rufus Adams and Daniel Frost. In Plainfield at this time Calvin Goddard was achieving an eminent degree of success as a lawyer. His ambition led him to seek a larger field, and in 1809 he removed to Norwich, leaving the field in this town to be shared by Joseph Eaton and Job Monroe. Soon after this time Calvin Hibbard, of Windham, engaged in the practice of law in Sterling. In Killingly Ebenezer Young opened a law office in the rising village of Westfield. In Pomfret Judge Thomas Grosvenor, Sylvanus Backus and Ebenezer Grosvenor were settled in legal practice. The latter was a son of General Lemuel Grosvenor, and graduated from Yale in 1807. Sylvanus Backus served for many years as speaker of the house of representatives in the state, and was elected as a representative to congress in 1817. To this position he was chosen by the united vote of all parties. His friends anticipated much from him in that position, but ere the time came for him to take his seat he was called away from this scene of action. He died in February, 1817. Activity of mind and brilliancy of imagination, combined with much solidity and strength, made him one of the most influential men of the time, indeed, a strong pillar of society and the state. He left a widow and five children. A few months later he was followed by his brother attorney, Ebenezer Grosvenor, one of Pomfret's most promising sons. Elisha B. Perkins, who had studied with 'Squire Backus, now succeeded to his practice. John F. Williams at this time practiced law at West Woodstock.

About the time of the war of 1812 John Parish and Daniel Kies were practicing law in Brooklyn. The mother of the latter had invented an improvement in weaving straw with silk or thread, for which she received a patent in May, 1809, and he had become

so much absorbed in attempting to utilize that invention that he suffered considerable pecuniary loss by it.

The courts of Windham county were removed from the village of Windham to Brooklyn in July, 1820. The bar of Windham county at this time boasted a very creditable array of legal talent, and held a good position in the state. It was represented in the different towns as follows: Brooklyn—John Parish, Daniel Kies, Jonathan A. Welch (son of Doctor Moses C. Welch), Uriel Fuller; Ashford—David Bolles, Philip Hayward, Samuel Ashley; Canterbury—Rufus Adams, Andrew T. Judson, Daniel Frost, Jr.; Hampton—Joseph Prentice, Chauncey F. Cleveland (admitted at the last court session in Windham); Killingly—Ebenezer Young; Plainfield—Joseph Eaton, Ira Case; Lebanon—William T. Williams, Denison Wattles, Jr., Henry Huntington; Pomfret—John Holbrook, Elisha B. Perkins, Jonathan Prescott Hall; Sterling—Calvin Hibbard; Thompson—George Larned, Simon Davis; Windham—Jabez Clark, Samuel Perkins, David Young, John Baldwin, John Fitch, Thomas Gray, Edwards Clarke; Woodstock—John McClellan, Ebenezer Stoddard, John F. Williams. Daniel P. Tyler soon after commenced the practice of law, at first for a short time in Pomfret and then in Brooklyn, his native town. About the year 1830 we find Francis B. Johnson in legal practice in place of Ira Case, deceased, in Plainfield. William Dyer, of Canterbury, opened a law office in Central Village. Joseph Eaton of this town was now also chief judge of the county court. George S. Catlin, a lawyer of brilliant promise, was now located in Windham. Jabez Clark, of Windham, for a time chief justice of the county court, died in 1836. Judge Ebenezer Devotion, who had long been prominent in Scotland affairs, died in 1829 in the eighty-ninth year of his age.

Chauncey F. Cleveland, of Hampton, won immediate success at the bar, evincing remarkable skill in presenting a case to a jury, and was equally successful in winning the suffrages of his fellow citizens. In 1826 he was sent as a representative to the legislature, and thenceforward was retained in public service. He was made judge of Windham probate district, and prosecuting attorney for the county. In Ashford, Ichabod Bulkley, a very able young man, succeeded to the legal practice of David Bolles, who died during the year 1830. Mr. Bulkley was also made judge of probate. He won a high position at the bar, and

was employed on the celebrated Crandall case and in many other important suits. He died in 1838, and after that Jared D. Richmond, of Westford, established himself in Ashford village, and practiced law for many years. John F. Williams was practicing law in West Woodstock about 1835. In Killingly a second lawyer was established in the person of Thomas Backus, of Sterling, a graduate of Brown University, who was made judge of the newly constituted probate court in 1830. John Holbrook was practicing law in Abington in 1836.

William Dyer was born at Canterbury October 25th, 1802, and was the eldest son of Elijah and Mary (Robinson) Dyer. He had two brothers, the late Elijah Dyer, M. D., of Norwich, Conn., a physician well known throughout eastern Connecticut and who died at Norwich March 10th, 1882, after a successful practice of his profession of more than half a century, and Harvey Robinson Dyer, who has retired from active business pursuits and is still a resident of Canterbury honored by all who know him, and one sister, Mary Elizabeth, who married the late Kimball Kennedy of Plainfield. His early life, like that of so many of the young men of his generation, was spent in farm life with his father; attending the common schools of the day, and afterward was a student in Plainfield Academy, which at the time was fully equal to any of the academic institutions of New England. As was the custom of the times he was engaged for several winters in the occupation of a school teacher, the better to enable him to obtain an education and to meet the expenses incident to preparing himself for his chosen profession, the law, which he studied with the late Honorable Calvin Goddard, afterward judge of the superior court, and the late Daniel Frost, Esq., of Canterbury, both of whom were acknowledged to be among the leaders at the bar. In the year 1831 he was admitted to the bar, and removing to Plainfield commenced the practice of law at Central Village, where he continued to reside until his death in 1875. He was pre-eminently an office lawyer, never attempting to thoroughly acquaint himself with the decisions of courts upon questions of law, but was always familiar with the statute law, and the principles of common law, which his sound judgment enabled him to interpret and apply with remarkable accuracy to all the varied affairs of his large constituency in the section in which he practiced. All classes of people resorted to him for advice, and such was the confidence reposed in him that

his instructions were regarded as law. He was interested in business matters outside the sphere of his profession, being engaged for a term of years in cotton manufacturing and mercantile affairs with his brother Harvey and his brother-in-law, Kimball Kennedy: He was averse to accepting any public office and though often requested to allow his name to be used in nomination for positions within the realm of the gift of the people, he courteously but peremptorily declined all except such as were actually connected with the field which he had selected as his workshop, only once accepting the position of town representative, and was house chairman of the judiciary committee.

He was thrice married, his first wife being Susan, a daughter of the late Morey Burgess, M. D., the second Olivia, the only daughter of the late Nathan P. Sessions, both of Plainfield, and the third, Sarah, daughter of the late Joseph James, of Coventry, R. I., who at the time of his death with two children survived him, viz., William J. and Mary.

In March, 1888, the son William J. died after a short illness, in the twenty-second year of his age. A young man of superior mind and a fine education, he was called away just as the hopes of his relatives and friends were in expectation of a long, useful and honorable life. He was universally acknowledged to be a thorough Christian gentleman by all who had the pleasure of an intimate acquaintance with him.

Honorable Elisha Carpenter was born in that part of Ashford which is now the town of Eastford on the 14th day of January, 1824. His parents had seven sons and one daughter, all of whom are now living. His father died in 1872 aged eighty-one years, and his mother ten years later at the age of eighty-six. The first representatives of the Carpenter family in this country came from England in 1642 and settled at or near Attleboro, Mass. The first settlers and their descendants for many generations seem to have been farmers and mechanics, as it is not known that any of them followed any of the learned professions until modern times. They belonged to the middle class, industrious, intelligent and respectable; in short good citizens. The same may be said of the ancestors of Judge Carpenter's mother, whose maiden name was Scarborough.

The early life of our subject was spent upon the farm. His early educational facilities were meagre, being such as were



W. H. L. 17

Elisha Carpenter

afforded by the district school, which was more than a mile from his home and some five miles from any village or business center. There he attended school during the winter months, assisting in the labor of the farm in summer, until he was sixteen years of age. At the age of seventeen he engaged in teaching in Willington, Conn. He taught school for several winters, attending school and working summers. He fitted for college at the "Ellington Institute" in charge of Reverend Richard S. Rust, succeeded by Reverend Mr. Buckham. He never entered college but continued his education in the school room, the law office and in the forum.

He studied law with the late Jonathan A. Welch, Esq., of Brooklyn, Conn., and was admitted to the bar in December, 1846. He began practice in his native town January 1st, 1847, and continued there until March, 1851, when he succeeded the late Honorable Thomas Backus at Danielsonville. In the summer of 1851 he was appointed states attorney for Windham county for one year, and was reappointed in 1854 and continued to hold the office until 1861. In 1857 and 1858 he represented the then Fourteenth district in the state senate, serving in the latter year as chairman of the judiciary committee and president *pro tem.* of the senate. In 1861, with Edwin H. Bugbee, he represented Killingly in the lower house of the general assembly and served as chairman of the military committee. During this session he was elected a judge of the superior court, succeeding Judge Butler, who was elected to the supreme court. In 1865 he was elected a judge of the supreme court of errors to succeed Governor Dutton, who retired by constitutional limitation at the age of seventy. His term commenced in February, 1866, and he has held the office by successive reappointments to the present time. At the organization of the state board of education in 1865 he was appointed a member of that board, which position he held for eighteen years. He is now a member of the board of pardons of the state.

Judge Carpenter, in 1848, was united in marriage to Harriet Grosvenor Brown, daughter of Shubael Brown, of Brooklyn, and niece of Reverend John Brown, D.D., formerly of Boston, who died in Hadley, Mass. Mrs. Carpenter died in 1874, leaving one son, who died in 1879, and three daughters who still survive. In 1876 Judge Carpenter was married to Sophia Tyler Cowen, of Hartford, a daughter of the late Sidney J. Cowen, of Saratoga, and

granddaughter of Esek Cowen, formerly a judge of the supreme court of New York. She is a lineal descendant of Thomas Hooker, the founder of Connecticut, and of Jonathan Edwards. They have one son and one daughter.

The first lawyer who located in the growing village of Putnam was Harrison Johnson, who established himself there about 1840. Chauncey F. Cleveland, commonly called Governor Cleveland, was practicing in Hampton, where he spent a long life, and devoted himself to advancing the welfare of his fellow man, both in his own locality and elsewhere. He was greatly interested in railroad enterprises, and was largely instrumental in securing the convenience of a railroad through his own town where it was so much needed. Besides his law practice he was pre-eminently a public servant. After two years in the state legislature, devoted largely in the encouragement of railroad enterprise, he was sent as a representative to congress in 1849. There he gave his vote and influence in opposing the extension of slavery, thus incurring the displeasure of the democratic party, by whom he had been nominated. But he was heartily supported by a constituency in sympathy with his views and was re-elected for another term by a much greater majority than at first. He soon became a bold and vigorous opposer of slavery, and in the memorable campaign of 1860 was placed at the head of the electoral ticket which gave the vote of the state to Abraham Lincoln. He was appointed by Governor Buckingham one of the delegates to the Washington Peace Convention of March, 1861, when he used his influence as best he could to avert the threatening war, but without avail. During the war he earnestly supported the administration. The term of service which gave him the title "Governor," which he afterward wore, was the two years 1842 to 1844. He practiced his profession as an advocate whenever the demands of official labors would permit. His otherwise happy and honored life, among his own people in Hampton, was shadowed by heavy bereavements—the death of his most promising son, John J. Cleveland, in early manhood, followed in less than two years by the death of his only surviving child, Delia Diantha, the wife of Hon. Alfred A. Burnham.

William Smith Scarborough was born in Brooklyn, this county, August 2d, 1814. He graduated from Yale College, with the famous class of 1837, of which class he was a popular and dis-

tinguished member. He studied law in the law school of Transylvania University at Lexington, Ky., and entered upon the practice of law in Thompson, in January, 1841. He soon gained a high position at the bar of Windham county, and served as state senator in 1846. On account of failing health he removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he soon resumed the practice of his profession with fidelity and success, serving there as school commissioner. He returned and again made his home in Thompson, in 1884, and still resides there.

Lucius H. Rickard was born in Pomfret, October 12th, 1828. At the age of four years he removed with his parents to Hampton, and four years later to Killingly, where his home has been, with brief exceptions, from that time till the present. He worked on the farm and attended the district school until he was thirteen years of age, when he went to the Scituate Seminary, in Rhode Island, remaining there four years. Afterward he attended the East Greenwich Seminary for six months, all the time working to pay his own expenses. In October, 1848, he went to Greene county, N. Y., and amid the rugged scenery of the Catskill mountains taught school in the town of Hunter for two years. During this time he commenced the study of law with Hon. Lyman Tremain, who was then located at Durham, in Greene county. Remaining in that county until 1850, Mr. Rickard was admitted to the bar at Albany, during that year, and the following spring returned to Killingly and commenced the practice of law. In 1852 he was appointed to a government position at Washington by President Pierce, which position he retained until during President Buchanan's administration he was appointed assistant district attorney of Iowa and removed to that state. There he remained until 1862, when he returned to his old home in Killingly. He was admitted to the bar of the United States supreme court at Washington in 1861. Since 1862 he has continued in the practice of his profession here. He has been five times elected warden of the borough of Danielsonville, and at the present time is commissioner of the supreme court, justice of the peace and notary public.

Elliot Benjamin Sumner was born in Tolland, Conn., August 23d, 1834. He was the son of William A. Sumner and Anna Washburn Sumner, his mother being now living at the age of ninety-five years. Until he reached the age of sixteen years he lived on his father's farm at Tolland; he then entered the Wes-

leyan Academy at Wilbraham, Mass., where he was fitted for the Wesleyan University at Middletown, Conn., but circumstances prevented his pursuing that course of study. In 1855 he commenced the study of law with the late Judge Loren P. Waldo and Honorable Alvin P. Hyde at Tolland, at which place he was admitted to the bar in August, 1857. In the following December he opened an office at Willimantic, where he has since been steadily engaged in the practice of his profession, occupying the same office for more than thirty years. In 1861 he married Miss Sarah E. Farnham, who died in 1881, leaving two children, Florence A. Sumner and William A. Sumner, who are still living. In 1857 Mr. Sumner was assistant clerk in the house of representatives, and in 1871 senator from the Thirteenth senatorial district. He was then chairman of the committee on federal relations and cities and boroughs. He has from time to time held various county, town and borough offices. His church relations are with the Baptists.

Abiel Converse was born in the town of Thompson, in Windham county, on the 13th of December, 1815. His early life and education were with a primitive people, amid very primitive scenes, and in the most primitive schools. In conformity to the customs of the time, he was subjected to the most exacting labor upon a hard and rugged farm from childhood to the stature of a man. An abundance of simple and substantial food, and an active life in the open air gave him health and vigor for a lifetime. At about the age of seventeen years, he began teaching "common schools" during a few months in the winter, continuing his farm labors the rest of the year. Two or three years later he entered Wesleyan Academy at Wilbraham, Mass., prepared for college and graduated at Wesleyan University at Middletown, Conn., in 1839, during all this time teaching school occasionally to supply a chronic deficiency in his exchequer.

Soon after graduation he entered the law office of Hon. Peter C. Bacon, late of Worcester, Mass., as a student, where he remained for about two years, and was then entered a student of Hon. L. F. S. Foster, of Norwich, Conn., after which he was called to the bar of New London county in February, 1842. He soon commenced the practice of his chosen profession at Danielsonville in Windham county, and successfully pursued the same until 1854, a period of twelve years. At this time he removed to New London, at once rose to prominence in the profession and



Very Truly

Abiel Converse

A decorative flourish or signature mark consisting of a horizontal line with a stylized 'H' or 'Z' shape in the center, followed by a long, sweeping underline.

secured the confidence and esteem of his associates at the bar, his large clientage and of the public. Twenty years later he retired from all active business and removed to his native town of Thompson, where he is still living in the enjoyment of vigorous health and a fair competence.

On the 17th of November, 1842, he was joined in marriage with Miss Matilda Sly, of Dudley, Mass., an estimable young lady who has since shared his joys and sorrows, and still lives in robust health, nearing gently and serenely the evening of life. Two daughters crowned this union: to wit, Mary Ellen, born July 17th, 1847, who died November 19th, 1884, and Martha Anna, born October 28th, 1848, married to Major Charles C. MacConnell of the United States army on the 26th of December, 1871, at New London, Conn., who died in Fort Adams at Newport, January 9th, 1874.

Mr. Converse traces his genealogy for more than eight hundred years back to Normandy, France, where the titled family of De Coigniries held a distinguished place among the Norman nobles of that day in possession of large estates around the Chateau of Coignir. A member of this family, Roger De Coigniries, accompanied William the Conqueror in his invasion of England in 1066, was one of his most trusted and able chieftains, and so distinguished himself at the battle of Hastings that his name was entered upon the roll of honor in the record of the battle and placed in the abbey erected upon the battle field by William and called the Battle Abbey. This name after the conquest was changed to Coniers or Conyers, and was transmitted with vast estates by lords and barons and nobles for more than five hundred years as the records show. In 1590 in this line was born Edward Conyers, who in 1630 came with Winthrop to America, and with him settled in Charlestown near Boston. He is the ancestor of the family of Conyers or Convers, and later Converse, in this country. He was one of the founders of the first church in that town, now known as the First Church of Boston, also of what is now the First Church of Charlestown, and a few years later of the church and town of Woburn, was the first deacon of the last named church, continuing such until his death. He became a leader and distinguished citizen of that town, and was honored with all the offices in the gift of its inhabitants.

His grandson, Samuel Convers, settled in the north part of the

town of Killingly in 1710, then Thompson Parish, and was one of the very first settlers in that remote section. From him has descended a large portion of the people of that name in the United States.

Jonathan Convers, sixth in the line from Deacon Edward of Woburn, was born in Thompson Parish, married Keziah Hughs, and was the father of a large family of children, the eldest being Elijah Convers, who married Experience Hibbard and was the father of four children, the youngest being Riel Convers, who married Alice Bixby, a descendant of one of the earliest settlers of Thompson Parish.

Abiel Converse, eldest son of Riel and Alice, was a born democrat, and very early entered with characteristic enthusiasm the arena of politics. While never seeking official position, he was honored by his party with many offices of trust, the duties of which he discharged with ability, fidelity and integrity.

In 1844, he was appointed by the court, attorney for the state in and for Windham county and held the office by reappointments for several years. In 1845 he represented the town of Killingly in the general assembly of the state. In 1848 and in 1849 he was appointed by the general assembly judge of probate for the district of Killingly. After his removal to New London he was clerk of the court of probate for that district, judge of the city police court and of the city court (civil), and for several years city attorney. He has always taken a deep interest in public education and been active in school boards for many years, and in all places where he has resided. He has been leader of a forlorn hope of his party in many contests against overwhelming odds. He was the democratic candidate for congress in his district directly after the civil war and received the full vote of his party.

Earl Martin was born in Chaplin in the year 1820. He was the son of Thomas and Hannah Martin. He read law with Judge Richmond, of Ashford, Conn., and was admitted to the bar in 1847. He removed to Danielsonville in 1849, and has lived there since that time. He was judge of the superior court of Connecticut from 1874 to 1882 inclusive, and has served one term in the legislature as a representative, being put in nomination by the democrats. He was married in 1855 to C. Jane Champlin, daughter of Deacon Benjamin Champlin.

Edward Cundall was born in Killingly, March 9th, 1831. He was a descendant of Joseph Cundall, who was born in 1692, and came from York county, England, to Boston and thence to Rhode Island, where he engaged in woolen manufacture. The subject of this sketch pursued a course of study at Hopkins Academy and studied law with Judge Foster of Norwich. He was admitted to the bar in 1851. From 1866 to 1872 he was state's attorney for Windham county. In 1872 he was appointed clerk of the superior and supreme courts for this county. He held a major's commission in the Seventh regiment, was a representative in the state legislature in 1857, 1866 and 1883, a senator from the Thirteenth district in 1865, and a member of the commission to revise the probate laws of Connecticut. He was married November 26th, 1857, to Emily M. Smith, of Killingly. They have two children living, Arthur L. and Clarence E., who graduated at Yale Law School in the class of 1888. He died in October, 1885.

John J. Penrose.—The parents of the subject of this biography are William and Lydia Lynch Penrose. Their son, John J. Penrose, was born on the 12th of December, 1821, in New York city, and when eight years of age removed to Hampton, Connecticut. His education was received at the common and select schools of the town, with additional advantages at a later date under a private tutor, where he became familiar with the Latin language and English history and literature. He in his nineteenth year began the study of law with Governor Chauncey F. Cleveland, and continuing for three years as a student, was admitted to practice at the bar of Connecticut in 1843. Mr. Penrose located in Central Village, in the town of Plainfield, where he is still engaged in the practice of the law. He very soon attained a prominent place in the profession, and has been identified with the leading cases that have come before the courts of Windham and the adjacent counties.

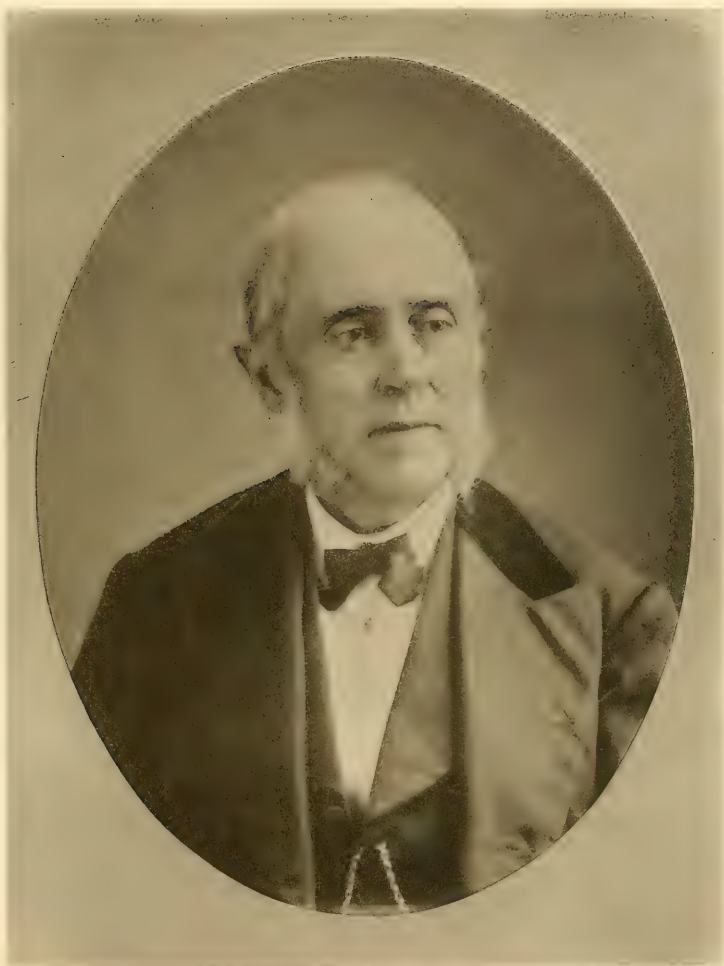
Always politically allied with the democracy he was during the critical period of the war a war democrat, and in 1860 candidate for the position of elector-at-large on the Douglas ticket. He has also received the nomination for congressional honors, and has for twenty years held the position of state's attorney for Windham county. He is a trustee of the Windham County Savings Bank and identified with other business interests in the county. Mr. Penrose was married in October, 1869, to Rebecca,

daughter of Henry Angell, of Plainfield, a lineal descendant of Roger Williams. Their children are two daughters, Kate and Nellie, and a son, John J., Jr.

George W. Melony was born at Windham February 15th, 1850, being the second son of Norman and Sophia (Beckwith) Melony. He graduated from the Natchaug School at Willimantic in 1871, and commenced the study of law with Mr. E. B. Sumner, and was admitted to the bar of Windham county in 1874. He soon after commenced the practice of law in Willimantic, in which he has since practiced.

Seymour A. Tingier (originally Tinker) was the son of Deacon Edward L. Tinker and Laura Steele, and was born in the little hill town of Tolland, Hampden county, Mass., December 4th, 1829. After a preparatory course at the Westfield, Mass., Academy and Connecticut Literary Institution, of Suffield, Conn., he entered Williams College, from which he graduated in 1855. He then went west, with the intention of locating in Nebraska, but returned in 1857, and was married, November 25th of that year, to Sarah Twining, the only daughter of Lyman Twining, of Tolland. He had previously studied law in the office of his brother-in-law, William F. Slocum, at Grafton, Mass. About this time he applied to the Massachusetts legislature, and that body legalized the change of his surname to Tingier. In 1858 he established himself in the practice of law at Webster, Mass., where he continued until 1878, when he removed over into the adjoining town of Thompson, Windham county, Conn. Here he devoted most of his attention to farming, practicing law but little, until his death, July 23d, 1888. He held various town offices in Webster, and during his life in Thompson served on the board of assessors, board of relief and as registrar of voters. His death was the result of a fall from a scaffold in his barn. His first wife died August 22d, 1864, leaving two children, both born at Webster—Lyman Twining Tingier, who is now practicing law in his native town, and Sarah P. Tingier, who is also still living. In 1870 he married Mary L. Tucker, daughter of Charles Tucker, of Webster, who survives him.

Benjamin Silliman Warner was born in Woodstock, Conn., September 24th, 1856. He was the son of Alexander and Mary Trumbull Warner. His mother, whose maiden name was Mathewson, was the great-granddaughter of William Williams, one of the signers of the declaration of independence, whose



J. J. Linwood

wife was the daughter of Governor Jonathan Trumbull, the immortal "Brother Jonathan," whose real name has been taken as the nick-name of a nation. Thus it will be seen Mr. Warner's lineage, through maternal ancestry, connects him with two of the conspicuous patriots of revolutionary times. He lived in Woodstock until he was five years of age, at which time he went South with his mother who went to join her husband, then in command of the Thirteenth Connecticut Volunteers. They lived in camp with Lieutenant Colonel Warner until after the surrender of Port Hudson. Young Warner then lived in New Orleans, where he attended school, till after the close of the war. His father bought a plantation in Madison county, Miss., and there they lived for three years, after which Benjamin was sent to school for a year and a half at Lookout Mountain, Tenn. The following year he acted as messenger in the senate, at Jackson, Miss. In the spring of 1872 he came to Windham county, and for four years lived at the home of his grandparents in Pomfret, attending school meanwhile in Woodstock. He graduated at the Putnam High School in 1877, and then took a special course for one year at the Sheffield Scientific School. He then began reading law in the office of Charles E. Searls, of Putnam, and two years later attended the University of the City of New York, where he graduated in 1882, and was immediately admitted to the bar of Windham county. In June, 1886, he married Sara L. Trowbridge, daughter of Edward and Sarah A. Trowbridge, of Brooklyn, N. Y. They have one son, Arthur Trumbull Warner. In 1877 Colonel Warner bought a farm in Pomfret, and here the subject of our sketch with his father spent much of his time superintending its improvement. They had the finest herd of Guernsey cattle in the county, and one of the finest in the state. Their herd gained a number of gold and silver medals at the New England and state fairs. Mr. Warner has been justice of the peace in Pomfret, notary public, and twice assessor of the town.

Calvin M. Brooks is a native of Worcester county, Mass., and is now fifty-eight years of age. He is a graduate of Yale College, and studied law in Worcester, Mass., where he also practiced for a considerable time. He also practiced law in Boston, Mass., in the city of New York, and as counsel for the Russian legation at Washington, D. C. For several years he resided at Eastford, in this county, but has since removed to Hartford, Conn.

Albert McClellan Mathewson was born in Woodstock October 19th, 1860, and spent his early boyhood with his parents on a farm near Roseland Park. He attended Woodstock Academy from the spring of 1870 until the close of the year 1877, when he began teaching school in the same town. In the fall of 1882 he began a course in the Law Department of Yale University, and graduated with the class of 1884. He began the practice of law in Putnam, October 19th, 1884, and remained there until July 1st, 1888, when he removed to New Haven, where he is now practicing his profession. He was married June 13th, 1888, to Mary E. Foster. He is a descendant of the renowned revolutionary characters, Jonathan Trumbull (Brother Jonathan) and William Williams, signer of the declaration of independence. His father is William Williams Mathewson, and his mother's maiden name was Harriet Augusta Warner.

Andrew Jackson Bowen was born in what is now the town of Eastford, but was then a part of the town of Ashford, April 16th, 1845. His ancestors came to this country in 1640, and settled in the town of Swansea, Mass., which they named after the town in Wales from which they had come. His father, Oliver Bowen, was an active business man, having been engaged in the manufacture of shoes previous to 1837, but was afterward engaged in mercantile pursuits and farming. The subject of this sketch was familiar with the latter occupation, and practiced therein during his boyhood. His education was obtained in the common school, with some additional instruction in a private school, after which he engaged in teaching for a few terms. He was married December 4th, 1867, to Hannah R., youngest daughter of J. K. Rindge, Esq., of Hampton, and they have had three children, Bessie, Clarence and Ernest. At the age of twenty-one he engaged in trade, and continued it for a period of twelve years with satisfactory results, his field of operation being in his native town. While thus engaged he held the office of postmaster for five years. He also held local offices, was director in a savings bank, and represented his town in the state legislature, serving on the committee on corporations. He studied law about four years, part of the time with Judge Richmond, of Ashford, and was admitted to the Windham county bar in May, 1881. A short time before that he removed to Willimantic, and soon after opened a law office, engaging at the same time in the fire insurance business. He has been an efficient officer of the Con-

necticut Humane Society, and has also had more than the usual business of a trial justice. Although named in honor of a distinguished democratic president, he cast his lot with the republican party by voting for U. S. Grant in 1868, and in the presidential campaign of 1888 took the stump for Harrison and protection. Since 1865 he has been an active member of the Congregational church.

John Lathrop Hunter was born at Gardiner, Maine, March 13th, 1834. He was the oldest son of John P. and Mary A. (Stone) Hunter, his mother being the daughter of Colonel John Stone, of the pioneer stock of Maine, and one of the early temperance reformers of that state. Young Hunter in his youth attended Gardiner and Wicasset Academies, entered Bowdoin College in 1851, and graduated there in 1855. He studied law in Gardiner with Charles Danforth, now a judge of the supreme court of that state, and was admitted to the Kennebec county bar in 1859. He commenced to practice law in his native town, and also edited the *Augusta Age* for a while. He began the practice of law in Willimantic in 1871, and has since been practicing here. He was a member of the Connecticut legislature in 1879.

George A. Conant was born at Ithaca, N. Y., June 27th, 1856. He was the only son of Albert A. and Amanda M. (Cullender) Conant. He graduated from the Natchaug High School in 1874, and soon after entered Amherst College, where he graduated in 1878. In 1879 he attended the Boston University Law School. He studied law with John M. Hall, of Willimantic, and became a member of the Windham county bar in 1880.

Arthur G. Bill was born in Chaplin May 29th, 1856. He attended district schools in that town until 1867, when he entered Natchaug High School at Willimantic, and afterward attended Woodstock Academy and Danielsonville High School. He graduated from the latter in 1874, and in the fall of the same year entered the law office of the late Edward L. Cundall. After remaining with him for a year, he entered the Yale Law School and graduated from there in 1877. Immediately after that he was admitted to the bar in New Haven. He then engaged in the practice of law, being associated with Mr. Cundall. In 1882 they also engaged in the insurance business, under the firm name of Cundall & Bill. Since the death of Mr. Cundall, in October, 1885, Mr. Bill has succeeded to the law and insurance business of the firm. In June, 1886, he was appointed coroner for

this county, which office he still holds. In November, 1886, he was elected judge of probate for the district of Killingly, and in November, 1888, was re-elected to that office. He is also largely interested in Western mortgage loans as agent for the celebrated Lombard Investment Company, of Boston, Mass. He was married to Miss Lillian E. Chase, of Danielsonville, August 11th, 1880, and now has two daughters, aged respectively five and two years.

Gilbert Wheeler Phillips was born in Woodstock, Connecticut, July 22d, 1828. His educational opportunities were such as were afforded at the common schools and in the academy of his native town, supplemented by a course of instruction at the academy in Dudley, Massachusetts.

Determining upon the study of law, he became a student in the office of George S. F. Stoddard of Woodstock, was admitted to the bar in 1852, and at once began professional work, laboring therein with an enthusiasm that never abated as long as health and strength remained. The career of Mr. Phillips was most successful and honorable, and his life in its many phases commanded from the beginning the respect and confidence of those with whom he was brought into business or social relations. He was an astute lawyer, a keen observer of men and things, usually correct in his judgment of character and motive, and admirable in the preparation and presentation of a case. His arguments were logical and his delivery earnest and impressive. He fully realized both the weak and strong points in his case, and his conclusion as to the probable effect of certain evidence upon the minds of the jury was often surprising in its accuracy. He studied his case before he tried it, and understood it thoroughly when he entered the court room. His clients were numerous and the strain of his work often severe. For many years he was the attorney of the New York & New England Railroad Company, and conducted for them a large number of cases. He was an honest lawyer, above all mean and unworthy expedients, and most courteous withal.

Mr. Phillips was prominent outside the sphere of his profession. He was assistant clerk of the Connecticut house of representatives in 1853, and in 1860, 1861 and 1872 was a member of that body. In 1862, 1863 and 1879 he represented in the senate the Fourteenth district, acting as chairman of the judiciary committee during the last two years of his service there and



Gilbert W. Phillips

president *pro tem.* in 1879. He was re-elected in 1880, but shortly after the opening of the session resigned on account of the pressure of legal business.

In local affairs Mr. Phillips manifested the deepest interest; he was liberal and public spirited, ever ready to aid the furtherance of any object promotive of the growth and prosperity of the town; he was one of the founders of the First National Bank of Putnam and until the very last its president. He was also one of the incorporators and trustees of the Putnam Savings Bank.

In all the relations of private life his bearing was such as to win the respect of all with whom he had intercourse. He was a most affectionate husband and father, devoted to his home and family, never so happy as when under his own roof with those he loved about him. He was a kind neighbor and a warm and constant friend.

Mr. Phillips for many years prior to his decease was a consistent member of the Congregational church in Putnam and one of its most active and liberal supporters. His pastor thus refers to the religious side of his character and his life:—"He saw into and sensed the divineness of life and of eternal things and opened up the Godward side of his nature to them, and while he gave himself to a proper worldliness he joined with it attention to and prosecution of that other-worldliness which rounds our experience and makes us, as we ought to be, men of time and men of eternity."

Mr. Phillips married on the 30th of March, 1852, Jane, daughter of Lieutenant-Governor Ebenezer Stoddard, of West Woodstock, Conn. Two sons, Gilbert Wheeler, Jr., and John Cleveland, survive. A daughter, Genevieve E., is deceased. The death of Mr. Phillips occurred October 24th, 1888.

Randolph Henry Chandler was the only son of William H. and Martha H. (Allen) Chandler. He was born at Thompson, January 11th, 1853. He entered Phillips Academy, of Andover, Mass., at an early age, and was also a student in Highland Military Academy, of Worcester, Mass. He studied law with Honorable Charles E. Searls, of Putnam, and was admitted to the Windham county bar in 1879. He commenced the practice of law in Putnam during the same year, and in that field of labor he still continues. He was a member of the Connecticut house of representatives in 1879-80, and has held various town offices. The maiden name of his wife was Isadore E. Aldrich.

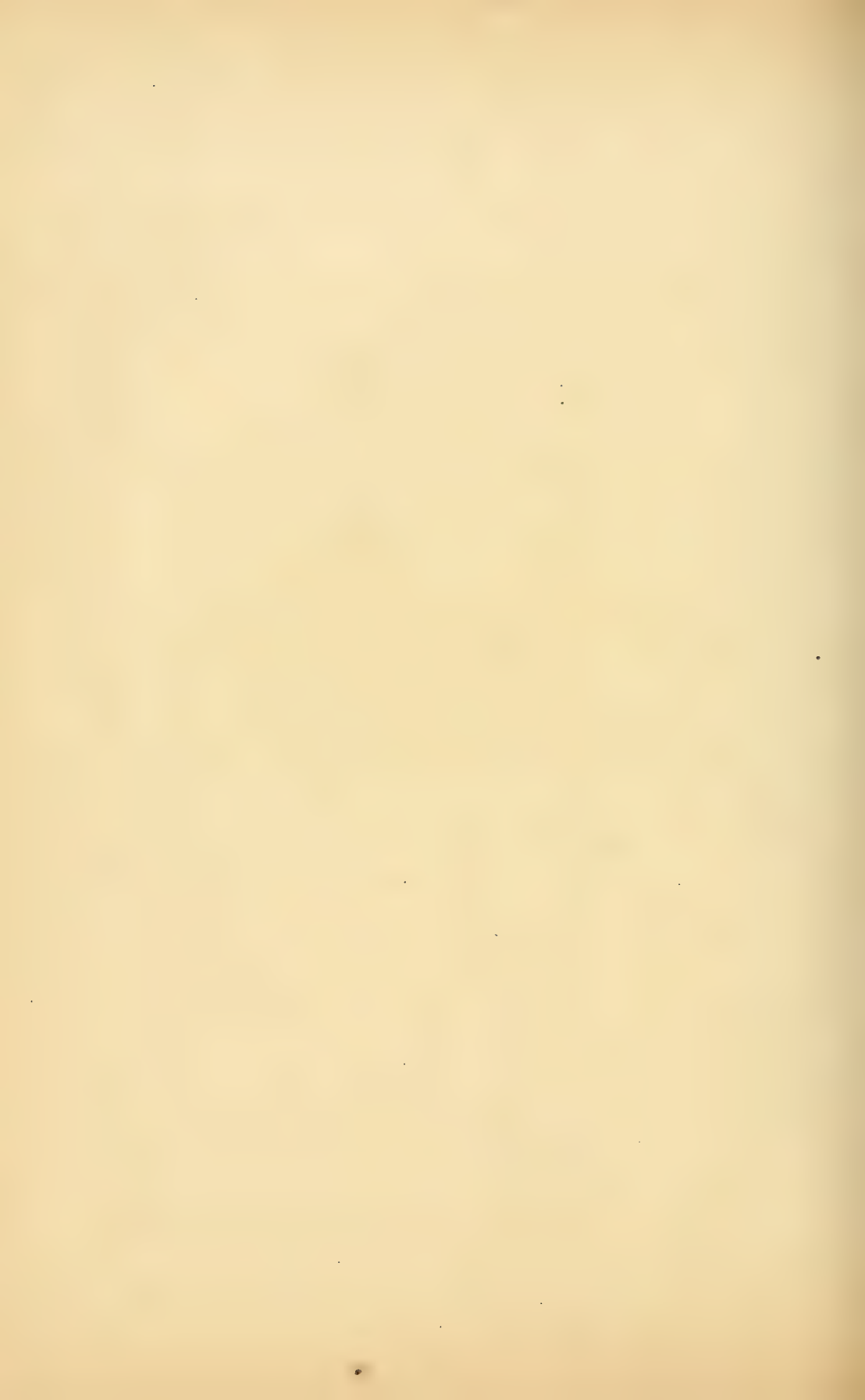
Eric H. Johnson was born in Putnam, September 2d, 1855. His early education was obtained in the common schools, and he entered Woodstock Academy in 1871, and there prepared for college. From there he entered Yale College, where he graduated in 1877. He then taught school three years in Putnam, and one year at Orange, N. J. He then took a course in Harvard Law School, and was admitted to the bar of Windham county in 1882. He is now practicing law in Putnam.

Charles E. Searls was born March 25th, 1846. The Searls family originally came from Dorchester, England, and settled in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Salter Searls, the first to locate in Windham county, where he engaged in farming, had eight sons, among whom was Bela, the grandfather of the subject of this biographical sketch. He married Hannah Walcott. But two of his children, Edwin C. and Henry, grew to mature years. The former of these, Edwin C., was born in 1815, in Chaplin, Connecticut, and died October 3d, 1857. His early career as a merchant was familiar to many residents of Pomfret, whence he removed to New York city and established himself as a broker. He married Caroline Mathewson, of Pomfret. Their only son, Charles Edwin Searls, was born in Pomfret, and in childhood removed to Brooklyn, New York, where his early years were passed. In the spring of 1858 the town of Thompson became his home, and at this point he has since resided. His education was received first at private schools in the city of Brooklyn, and later at the Thompson Academy, from which he entered Yale University in 1864, and was graduated from that institution in the class of 1868. He then began the study of law in the office of Honorable Gilbert W. Phillips, of Putnam, and was admitted to the bar of Connecticut in 1870. Mr. Searls at once opened an office in Putnam, where he has since continued in the active practice of his profession. He very early in his career took a leading place among the attorneys of the county, is employed in its most important litigation, and represents in a professional capacity nearly all the large corporations of the vicinity. Mr. Searls actively interests himself in matters connected with his town. As a republican he was made town clerk of Thompson in 1869, has been for years and is still justice of the peace, and was in 1871 elected to the Connecticut house of representatives. In 1881-82 he filled the office of secretary of state. He was re-elected to the legislature in 1886, and was during that session a



W. H. & C. S. 1887

Charles E. Fawcett



candidate for speaker of the house of representatives. Mr. Searls is still much absorbed in a large and increasing law practice.

Samuel H. Seward was born in Guilford, Conn., April 16th, 1835, being the eldest son of Samuel L. and Huldah M. (Sanford) Seward. In early life he attended the common school, also a private school in his native town, studied law with Hon. Ralph D. Smith, of Guilford, and was admitted to the New Haven county bar in November, 1869. He was engaged in business at Waterbury, Conn., for three years, and for three years more was postmaster at Guilford. He commenced to practice law at Stafford Springs, and remained there until 1873, when he removed to Putnam, where he has since engaged in that profession. August 15th, 1862, he enlisted in the Fourteenth Connecticut regiment as a private, but was promoted to the office of first lieutenant, and paymaster, with the rank of major. He lost one of his arms at the battle of the Wilderness, July 9th, 1864. He has been twice married, first to Martha Smith, of Essex, Conn., and second to Sarah Watson, of Beloit, Wis. He has one son, Walter L., who resides in San Francisco, Cal. He was a member of the house of representatives in 1880, and at other times has been clerk of the courts and county clerk, and served on the state committee to erect the Normal school at New Britain, Conn.

Edgar M. Warner was born in Worcester, Mass., June 16th, 1850. He was the youngest son of Earl and Adeline (Lester) Warner, of that city. After passing his boyhood in the common schools, he attended Bartlett High School, at New London, and studied law with Hon. Hiram Willey, of that city, and with George Pratt, Esq., of Norwich. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1872, and was admitted to the bar of New London county the same year. He practiced law at Norwich for three years, and then, in March, 1875, located in Central Village. In 1885 he extended his practice by opening an office in Putnam, and as business increased he subsequently removed to that place. He served in the state legislature as clerk of the house in 1877 and 1879, and as clerk of the senate in 1880. He married Jennie, the daughter of Judge John A. Carpenter.

William G. Buteau, the youngest son of Henry and Mary Buteau, was born at Sprague, Conn., July 9th, 1860. He attended

the Mt. Pleasant Academy, at Providence, R. I., then went to the Sorel Classical College, at Sorel, in the Province of Quebec, Canada, then took a course at a business college in Varennes, in the same province, where he graduated in 1880. He then attended Joliette Classical College, graduating there in 1884, and receiving the degree of B. A. During the latter part of 1885 he commenced the study of law in the office of Andrew B. Patten, of Providence, R. I., where he remained one year. He then entered Yale Law School, and he graduated from there in June, 1887, receiving the degree of LL. B. He was admitted to the bar at New Haven, and commenced the practice of law at Putnam in August, 1887, where he is still located.

Ebenezer Stoddard, late of West Woodstock, was a lawyer of note and a citizen of whom Windham county is justly proud in the preservation of his memory. He was born at Pomfret, May 6th, 1785, being the son and grandson of men bearing his own name. He was a graduate of Brown University, and practiced law in Woodstock. He represented this congressional district in the house of representatives at Washington in the 17th and 18th congresses of the United States. Twice he was honored as lieutenant governor of the state, holding the office one year in 1833-34, and three years, 1835-38. He was a man of much influence and power in his day. He died in August, 1847. He married Lucy Carrol, of South Woodstock, and they had ten children, as follows: Amelia, married Marcus May, and died in Utica, N. Y.; John Marshall De Lafayette, graduated from Yale and died unmarried at the age of 24; Marietta Latma, widow of Orin Sumner, residing in Boston; George Stanley Faber, born June 2d, 1818, practiced law in Woodstock, and died there June 9th, 1888, having one son, George De Barstow, a resident of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Charles, who left no family; Lucy, who died at the age of 20; Ebenezer, who died in West Woodstock, leaving one son, Charles, a resident of Minnesota; Henry, who died at Springfield, Mass., leaving a son, John E., and a daughter, Florence W., wife of George Miller, of Springfield; Jane, widow of Gilbert W. Phillips, of Putnam; and Seth, who died at Putnam, aged 54 years.

Louis Baker Cleveland, of Putnam, was born in Brooklyn, Conn., June 30th, 1855. He was the eldest son of Henry M. and Mary C. (Welch) Cleveland, his mother being the eldest daughter of Hon. Jonathan Ashley Welch, of Brooklyn. He is also

grandnephew of Hon. Chauncey F. Cleveland. After attending the district schools he fitted for college at the Phillips Academy, of Andover, Mass., and entered Columbia Law School in New York city in 1874. He graduated there in 1876, receiving the degree of bachelor of laws. He then studied law with Judge S. T. Holbrook, of Norwich, Conn., for three months, also with Tracy & Catlin, of Brooklyn, N. Y. While with that firm he occupied the position of chief clerk to General Tracy during the famous Tilton and Beecher trial. He passed his examination and was admitted to the New York bar in July, 1876. In the following September he came to Brooklyn, Conn., and began to practice law at that place, where he remained until October, 1888, when he removed to Putnam, and is now located there. For several years he was a member of the examining committee of the Windham county bar, has been justice of the peace for ten years, and is a commissioner of the superior court.

Thomas Eugene Graves, one of the leaders of the Windham county bar for half a century, practicing law for fifty-one years, was the son of John Graves and Elizabeth Peters (daughter of Governor Peters), and was born at Hebron, Conn., May 15th, 1814. When quite a youth he was placed under the care of a celebrated Episcopal clergyman, who was his tutor for several years. At the age of fourteen he entered Trinity College, without any conditions, but with special honors in Latin and Greek, which he held. He graduated at the age of eighteen, at the head of his class. He then devoted three years to the study of law, in the office of Judge Waldo, in Tolland, who was then one of the leading lawyers of the country. Mr. Graves passed an especially good examination, a rival of Judge Waldo, hoping to impeach the qualification of his student, subjecting him to a severe examination for three hours, but was at last obliged to confess that young Graves was the best prepared man who had ever applied for admittance to the bar. In 1837 he opened an office in the town of Thompson, and had a general law practice in this and New London counties for several years. In 1854, or about that time, he was employed in the organization and construction of the Boston, Hartford & Erie railroad. This was formed in part by the purchase of the franchises of several railroads chartered by the states of New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The charters for the new corporation were compiled, written and procured in each of these states

by Mr. Graves, who appeared before the legislatures and obtained the charters in the face of great opposition from rival railroad interests. The land claims for hundreds of miles were separately examined and settled by Mr. Graves, and the many leases, involving intricate questions of law and financial bearings, called for by the union of several roads operated under this company, were all prepared by him. Until 1878 his professional labors were given almost entirely to this railroad, and his presence was a familiar one at the capitals of the four states mentioned. The requirements of this practice led him to remove his residence to West Newton, Mass., and later to Beacon street, Boston, where he resided until a few years since, when he returned to Windham county to spend the remainder of his days in the enjoyment of the fruits of his hard labors.

Mr. Graves entered upon his professional life when there were but few reported decisions of cases, and opinions or questions of law were given upon the interpretation and application of legal principles laid down in a few text books, as understood by the advocate or adviser. He was a hard and close student of such books as could then be obtained, and in the course of time surrounded himself with the finest private law library in the state, while the many marks upon the books still bear witness to his frequent and incessant labor among them. He aimed to possess every book published bearing upon the particular department of law which was his specialty, and to be thus prepared to refer to an authority for any position taken by him in the line of his daily work. He was associated in the trial of celebrated railroad cases with such men as Rufus Choate, General B. F. Butler, Charles O'Conner, and others, and proved himself their peer in legal knowledge. For private clients he had such men as Commodore Vanderbilt, Daniel Drew and Jay Gould, all of whom employed him upon railroad matters, recognizing him as an authority in that line of subjects. He refused offers to act as attorney for several large railroads, preferring to remain with the railroad with which he was so early and extensively identified. Hon. Oakes Ames and Sidney Dillon offered him the position of attorney for what is now the Great Pacific railroad.

Mr. Graves was a man of large patriotism, and during the late war personally secured the services of over one hundred and fifty men for the army, paying freely from his own pocket large sums to help the Union cause. Although never holding an of-

fice, he was a staunch whig and republican, and an acknowledged leader in the party. In his younger days he delivered many temperance addresses, often in association with his friend, John B. Gough. The village improvement which has given so much attractiveness to the beautiful town of Thompson is a monument to his generosity and enthusiasm in the public behalf. The public green in the center of the village was cleared of rubbish and unsightly objects and planted with noble shade trees mainly through his personal efforts and generous contributions for the enjoyment of coming generations, who will in gratitude associate his name with the beautiful park, whose green carpet and delightful shade they annually enjoy.

After he gave up his railroad business, intending to retire, his old love for practice before judge and jury led him to appear once more in the well known court house at Brooklyn. As soon as it was known that he was accessible to clients so much business rushed upon him that his name almost monopolized the court docket, appearing, it is said, in over two hundred cases at one session. He was naturally genial, affable, and accommodating, and full of fun, repartee and anecdotes of his early life, even after fifty years of active professional labors. He died in January, 1888, having been in court only a few weeks previous. He had set his house in order, and died peacefully and without apparent disease, passing away as though he had simply fallen asleep.

George Stanley Faber Stoddard, named in honor of the Bible commentator of that time, was the fourth child of Honorable Ebenezer Stoddard, and was born at West Woodstock, June 2d, 1818. He received a thorough education at the academies of Woodstock, Conn., and Dudley, Mass., after which he studied law with his father and was admitted to the Windham county bar about 1840. Previous to this date he was commissioned as colonel of his regiment in the militia, while yet a youth of eighteen years, and from that time on he was known by that title. His accomplishments as an equestrian, for which he was noted, helped to gain him that position and still further qualified him to grace it. After being admitted to the bar he settled in South Woodstock, and there spent his life in the practice of law. He was several times elected to the legislature, held the office of judge of probate, and at different times most of the important offices of the town. He was a modest, unpretentious man, very

fond of his home, and unambitious of political preferment. His standing at the bar was high, and his superior abilities as a clear and logical advocate were acknowledged by all the circle of his professional acquaintances. He was a kind-hearted and genial man in his social character, and endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact. He was stricken with apoplexy and after lingering three or four days, died June 9th, 1888. He married first, Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Spaulding Barstow, of South Woodstock, who died about two years later, leaving an infant son, who is still living, and now resides in Brooklyn, N. Y. After her death he married Sara Sumner, eldest daughter of the same Spaulding Barstow, who survives him.

John M. Hall, one of the busiest members of the legal fraternity of Windham county, is a native of Willimantic, where he was born in October, 1841. After the usual discipline in the schools of his native village, he attended the Williston Seminary, at East Hampton, Mass., where he graduated in 1862, and he then entered Yale College and graduated there in 1866. He then began the study of law in a prominent law office in New York city, at the same time taking a regular course at the Columbia College Law School. In 1868 he was admitted to the bar, and in the spring of 1869 began to practice law in Willimantic, where he has since resided. He married Julia, daughter of Silas F. Loomer, and has three children, one son and two daughters. Socially he is a man of considerable reserve, but professionally stands among the foremost, and is recognized as an exceptionally brilliant and able lawyer. He has held many offices of honor and trust in his town and among his society brethren. Among such have been the offices of registrar of voters, acting school visitor, justice of the peace, clerk of the court of probate, director of the Dime Savings Bank, delegate to the national republican convention of 1876, etc. His legislative experience covers a wider field, perhaps, than that of any other man of his age in the state. He was a representative from his town in the house in 1870, '71, '72, '81, and '82, and in the latter year was speaker of the house. During these sessions he was a member of the committee on fisheries, contested elections, constitutional amendments, railroads (of all of which he was chairman), judiciary (twice), establishment of senatorial districts, and in 1871 was one of the joint select committee which canvassed the vote for governor and other state officers, in view of alleged election frauds in New Haven, and

upon the strength of whose report the general assembly declared the Hon. Marshall Jewell governor of the state.

James Hopkins Potter, the youngest but two of eleven children of Stephen H. and Esther (Burgess) Potter, was born in the town of Sempronius, Cayuga county, N. Y., July 17th, 1833, his birth-place being a log cabin. At that time the country in that section was new, and the homes of the settlers were primitive dwellings. The ancestry of Mr. Potter have for many generations been conspicuous in the state of Rhode Island. During the first year of his life his parents removed from New York state to the town of Killingly, in this county, where the children had the benefit of the district schools until they were old enough to be employed in cotton mills. Long days of labor throughout the year, with holidays few and far between, made up the youthful days of Mr. Potter. At the age of eighteen he graduated from this work "in the mill," to a position in a store, which continued about five years. His district school education was supplemented by five terms in the West Killingly Academy, where he distinguished himself by obtaining the highest prize for English composition. He paid his way while attending the academy with money earned by teaching in the district schools of Killingly, and later followed the profession of teaching for about fourteen years, with much success, being thus engaged about twelve years in New Jersey. During this time he took up the study of law, and upon retiring from school work entered the law office of Hon. E. M. White, in the city of Dover, N. J. There he actively engaged in the practice of law about two years, after which he returned to Killingly, and was admitted to the bar of this county and state in 1875. Since that time he has practiced at Danielsonville.

In 1861 Mr. Potter married the only daughter of the late Captain Erastus Short, of Killingly. During most of his life since arriving at the age of manhood, Mr. Potter has held some town office in Killingly, and in 1862 he represented the town in the legislature.

George Larned, son of General Daniel and Rebekah (Wilkinson) Larned, was born in Thompson March 13th, 1776. He graduated at Brown University in 1792, studied law in Canterbury and Litchfield, and established himself in practice in Herkimer county, N. Y. Here business opened to him with brilliant prospects of success, but the death of his father made circumstances urge his removal to Thompson. Here he opened a law office in

or about the year 1800, being the first lawyer to locate in the town. He soon became very popular and was an effective pleader. He was known especially as the "honest lawyer." He was twice married and had ten children. His first wife was Anna Dorinda Brown, and his second wife was Anna Spalding Gay. He died June 11th, 1858.

Simon Davis, son of Captain Simon and Zorinah (Knight) Davis, was born in Thompson August 1st, 1781. He practiced law in Thompson, also served as paymaster and pension agent. He was a man of exceedingly courteous manners and sound judgment. He was very widely known and respected. He was married three times—first to Rebekah Larned, second to Harriet Ketcham, and third to Hannah Ary. He had seven children. His death took place April 21st, 1850.

CHAPTER XII.

THE MEDICAL FRATERNITY.

The first Physicians in the different Towns.—Their influence on Society.—Later Practitioners.—Conspicuous Members.—Jonathan Huntington.—Albigeance Waldo.—Samuel Lee.—Benjamin Hubbard.—Elisha Perkins.—After the Revolution.—Raising the Professional Standard.—Glimpses of the Physicians practicing in the early years of the Century.—The County Medical Society.—Lewis Williams.—Justin Hammond.—Samuel Hutchins.—Charles H. Rogers.—Ernest D. Kimball.—Frank E. Guild.—Chester Hunt.—David C. Card.—E. D. Card.—Eliphalet Huntington.—Charles James Fox.—Theodore R. Parker.—Samuel David.—Oliver B. Griggs.—Dewitt C. Lathrop.—Francis X. Barolet.—Gardner L. Miller.—Frederic A. Morrell.—Omer La Rue.—Daniel B. Plimpton.—Lowell Holbrook.—Ichabod L. Bradley.—Louis Oude Morasse.—William Richardson.—Levi A. Bliss.—Frederick G. Sawtelle.—Seth Rogers.—John B. Kent.—Elisha K. Robbins.—S. P. Ladd.—F. S. Burgess.—Nathaniel Hibbard.—Henry L. Hammond.—Harvey L. Converse.—James F. McIntosh.—Jesse M. Coburn.—S. C. Chase.—William H. Judson.—Orin Witter, Sr.—Orin Witter, Jr.—Hiram Holt.—William Witter.—Henry R. Lowe.—William A. Lewis.—Isaac B. Gallup.

MANY of the foremost men of Windham county, during all the years of its history, have been found among the medical fraternity. We regret the arbitrary conditions of space limitations which compel us to omit many interesting details. But we must pass over many honored names with but little more than their mere mention. Early in the history of the county we find the physicians assuming their position of prominence among the people, receiving their confidence and becoming their leaders in social, business and political movements. The first practicing physician regularly established in Windham county, of whom we can gain any knowledge, was Jonathan Huntington, son of Joseph, who was one of the first settlers. Doctor Huntington belonged to an honored family, and resided at Windham, practicing during the early part to the middle of the last century. Doctor Thomas Moffat, the first physician practicing in Killingly, was there about the year 1740, and probably before and after, but how long we are unable

to state. The first practicing physician established in Pomfret was Doctor Thomas Mather, of Suffield, who purchased land of Samuel Nightingale and established himself here in 1738. He was one of the original members of the "United Society or Company for propagating Christian and Useful Knowledge," organized in 1739. He probably removed hence at some time previous to 1760. Doctor John Hallowell was at this time also practicing in Pomfret. The first physician in Abington was Elisha Lord, who purchased land "on the road from James Ingalls, inn-holder, to the meeting-house," in 1760. He had already married Alethea Ripley, a sister of Reverend David Ripley, minister of the Abington church. Doctor David Hall, son of Reverend David Hall, of Sutton, was a physician in Pomfret about 1760. At about the same time Doctor William Walton was practicing both in Pomfret and Killingly. Doctor John Weld was also among the early physicians of Pomfret, but the date of his practice is unknown to the writer. Doctor Elisha Perkins, son of Doctor Joseph Perkins, of Newent Society, Norwich, commenced practice in Plainfield about the year 1759. He afterward married the daughter of Captain Douglass, and was eminently successful. At this time Doctor Edward Robinson was also established in practice in Plainfield; and Doctor Gideon Welles, who graduated from Yale College in 1753, was practicing in both Plainfield and Canterbury. Doctor Nathan Arnold was a distinguished and successful physician in his day. He was the son of John Arnold, one of the early settlers at the "Ponds" of original Windham, and studied medicine with Doctor Jonathan Huntington. Jabez Adams, a son of Phineas Adams, of Canterbury, was for many years a prominent physician at Mansfield. Doctor Jabez Fitch was a leading citizen and practitioner of Canterbury about 1755. Doctor Joshua Elderkin was practicing in Windham about this time.

Albigece Waldo, son of Zechariah Waldo, about 1760 succeeded to the practice of Doctor David Hall, who removed to Vermont. He studied for the profession with Doctor John Spalding, of Canterbury, and is said to have been a young man of uncommon energy and promise. Doctor Spalding was a native of Canterbury, and established himself there contemporaneously with Doctor Gideon Welles. The latter died in 1811. Doctor David Adams also practiced considerably in Scotland during the latter half of the last century, though his home meanwhile was

elsewhere. About 1760 three young physicians were established in Ashford—Doctors Joseph Palmer, Nehemiah Howe and Thomas Huntington. Doctor Ebenezer Gray, of Boston, settled in the medical profession in Windham about this time. He died in 1773. Doctor Jonathan Huntington, now full of years and honors and ripe Christian virtues, died in 1777, after a life marked by “piety to God and benevolence to mankind.” The place made vacant by the death of these two venerable practitioners of the healing art was occupied by Doctor Samuel Lee, of Goshen, a young man noted for his herculean strength and agility and ardent patriotism, and who had been a student of Doctor Ezekiel Porter, of Wethersfield. John Brewster, of Scotland, after studying medicine with Dr. Barker, of Franklin, married a daughter of Captain William Durkee, and settled in “Windham Village,” now Hampton, and gained there an extensive practice, being the first physician located in that vicinity.

About the year 1763 Doctor Samuel H. Torrey, a young man of much more thorough medical training than was common at that period, established himself at Killingly, and soon gained an extensive practice. He was a brother of Joseph Torrey, who had preceded him hither from South Kingstown, R. I. The wife of Doctor Torrey, Anna Gould, of Branford, brought with her four slaves, as a part of her marriage portion. Doctor Torrey identified himself with the various movements of the town and church, and became very active and influential. Doctor Samuel Lee was one of the practicing physicians of Windham at the close of the revolution. He died in 1804, and was succeeded in his practice by his son Samuel, who had also been associated with him for several years. The younger Doctor Lee had already become somewhat distinguished as the originator and proprietor of “Lee’s Windham Billious Pills,” one of the first patent medicines that came before the public. These acquired so great a reputation that it is said the lawyers at court used to maintain that a box of them carried in the pocket would ward off disease. Doctor Thomas Gray also practiced in Windham about the close of and after the revolution. Doctor John Clark was contemporary with the last mentioned. About the beginning of the present century he removed to central New York. Doctor Penuel Cheney was very active and useful in town and society matters in Scotland during the latter part of the last century. At some time during the early years of the

present century he was succeeded in practice by Hovey, who practiced in this town and Hampton for several years.

Doctor John Brewster of Hampton was widely known about the year 1790, and perhaps for a quarter of a century after that date. Joseph Baker was a physician in Brooklyn about 1790. Doctor Elisha Lord was practicing in Abington in the latter part of the last century. Doctor Jared Warner was cotemporary with him. Doctor Jonathan Hall was at the same time settled in Pomfret and in the early years of his practice gave promise of future eminence. He was held in high repute at home and abroad, both professionally and socially, and his children, as they came upon the stage of action, were shining ornaments of that polite and refined society which distinguished Pomfret at that day. He died about the year 1830.

Perhaps one of the most active and conspicuous members of the medical profession of Windham county a century ago was Doctor Albigenice Waldo. He was a surgeon in the army during the revolution, and after its close returned to practice in the northern part of the county. He was a man of much breadth and energy, devoted to his profession and greatly interested in scientific questions and discoveries. He was interested in the association of medical men, and through his efforts in this direction the movements were set on foot which led to the organization of the Medical Society which exists at the present day with so much vigor and usefulness. He was also one of the organizers of the State Medical Society in 1792. Doctor Waldo was famed for literary accomplishments, and wrote much upon scientific and political questions. He excelled in public speaking, especially upon funeral occasions. His eulogies at the burial of Putnam and other prominent persons were greatly admired, as were also the eulogies and epitaphs composed by him on various occasions. He was born February 27th, 1750, and died January 29th, 1794. Passing away in the prime of life and height of professional eminence, he was greatly mourned "as a man endowed by the God of nature with the most brilliant and distinguished abilities, and with a heart susceptible of all those amiable and benevolent virtues which adorn the human breast." He left many scientific and medical treatises which it was hoped "would afford great light and benefit to future ages." He was buried with Masonic honors, and his fellow Masons of Moriah Lodge erected a monument to his memory, on which they declare of

him, "His name was Charity ; His actions Humanity ; His intercourse with men Benevolence and Love."

Doctor Darius Hutchins succeeded to the practice of Doctor Lord in Abington in the early years of the present century. To his practice he also added a store after a few years. Doctor Thomas Hubbard, a son of Benjamin Hubbard, a young man yet under age, one of the pupils of Doctor Waldo, succeeded to the practice of that eminent physician. He had made such proficiency in medical studies and had such natural aptitude for the profession as to fill the position with great credit and usefulness, and gain in time a reputation even surpassing that of his predecessor. In later years his surgical skill became widely noted, attracting many students, who accompanied him on horseback on his daily rounds, striving to keep pace with his swiftly running sulky, and thinking themselves most favored if they could ride a few moments by his side and catch his oracular opinions or enjoy his humorous anecdotes.

Doctor Huntington, of Westford, already noticed, was succeeded in the latter part of the last century, by a relative of his, Doctor Andrew Huntington, of Griswold. About the beginning of the present century Doctor Nehemiah Howe attended to his patients and took a prominent part in town management in Ashford. He died in a good old age, about the year 1838. Doctor Joseph Palmer of that town had a son Joseph practicing at the same time, and still later a son of the latter; a third Doctor Palmer practiced for a while in Ashford and then removed to Canterbury. Doctor Elisha Perkins was a prominent citizen and medicine man in Plainfield during the latter years of the last century. He became much interested in experiments in magnetic action and effects, and invented instruments called "metallic tractors," which were widely known and used. They were patented in this country and introduced into Europe, where they received the approval of medical and scientific men to a greater extent even than in this country. In Copenhagen twelve physicians and surgeons instituted a series of experiments which resulted in the verdict that "Perkinsm" was "of great importance to the physician." An institution was established in London for the purpose of applying the "Perkinian" principles in the treatment chiefly of the poor which was done without charge. It was claimed at one time that one and a half millions of cures had been effected. Of Doctor Perkins it was said, "Few men in

the world were more public spirited, more hospitable, more free from all guile." He was ever active in public matters, the friend of the poor and a ready helper of those who needed help. The fate of his daughter, Mrs. Merwin, who, with her husband and two children, died of yellow fever in Philadelphia in 1793, turned his experiments in a new direction and he produced an antiseptic preparation which he used as a preventive of the disease, but he fell a victim to his own theories, dying of yellow fever in New York city in 1799, where for four weeks he had been earnestly engaged in attending the sick.

Doctor Robert Grosvenor, of Pomfret, succeeded to the practice of Doctor Moffat in Killingly, at some time between the close of the revolution and the close of the century. After practicing some thirty or forty years he was assisted and succeeded by his son, Doctor William Grosvenor. Contemporary with the elder Doctor Grosvenor was Doctor Josiah Deane, of Killingly. The first resident physician in Thompson was Doctor Daniel Knight, who was also made, in 1805, the first postmaster of that village. About the close of the last century Doctor Ephraim Carroll, of Thompson, was established in medical practice in Woodstock. Doctor Lathrop Holmes was also engaged in practice and also in trade in that town. About the same period Doctor Isaac Backus practiced at Plainfield, a little later removing his residence to Sterling, where he continued to pursue his profession. Doctor Charles Moulton was also practicing medicine about the same time in Hampton.

In the early years of the present century the standard of the medical profession seems to have been raised to a somewhat higher level. The old class of physicians, who had attended patients when nothing of more importance was on hand, was giving place to younger men, who had won by study the title prefixed to their names, and devoted themselves to their profession with more singleness of purpose. Doctor Andrew Harris at Canterbury Green and Doctor Elijah Baldwin in South Canterbury, harmoniously occupied the field, the former practicing more especially with the knife and the latter carrying around the saddle-bags. Doctor Johnson continued his daily rounds through Westminster Parish. Doctor Hough retained his dual office, administering pills and official whippings with equal liberality and alacrity. Doctor Gideon Welles died in 1811. Doctors Baldwin and Harris continued their practice for a consider-

able term of years. In 1818 Doctors Thomas Backus, John Partidge and Oliver Howlett were reported as practicing physicians in Sterling. At this time the list of physicians practicing in Woodstock embraced Doctors Haviland Morris, Ebenezer Bishop, Joseph Seagrave, Thomas Morse Daniel Lyman, Amasa Carrol and Amos Carrol. Doctor Lyman gave his attention more particularly to surgery. Doctor Thomas Morse, now settled in West Woodstock, was noted as the third Doctor Morse who had practiced within the town. His grandfather, Doctor Parker Morse, Sr., was graduated from Harvard College about 1735, and settled in East Woodstock immediately after acquiring his profession, and was succeeded by his son of the same name. The grandson maintained the medical reputation of the family, and served many years as clerk of the County Medical Society. Doctor Waldo Hutchins was at this time established in medical practice in Brooklyn. After his death, some fifteen years later, Doctor James B. Whitcomb engaged in the practice which he left. William Hutchins, of Killingly, and Thomas Huntington, of Norwich, both very promising and spirited young men, took the place of Doctor Ebenezer Baker, deceased. A few years later we find young Doctors Burgess and Cogswell in Plainfield, sharing the field with Doctor Fuller. In Sterling at this time Doctor William H. Campbell engaged in medical practice, having his residence near the hill, also Doctor Nathan S. Pike, who was widely known in the profession.

About 1840 we find Doctors John Hill, Jr., and William Witter engaged in medical practice at Willimantic. Doctor Orin Witter had been practicing many years in Chaplin. He was a prominent man in society and town matters, being the first town clerk on the organization of the town in 1822. In Hampton about the time referred to Doctor Dyer Hughes was practicing medicine, assisted by his son and Doctor Clark, previously of Canterbury. Doctor Daniel Hovey engaged in practice in East and South Killingly. After pursuing his calling here for nearly half a century, Doctor Hovey died some ten years since, being at the time of his death the oldest member of the County Medical Society. Doctor William Grosvenor practiced on Killingly Hill about forty years ago. Doctor Hiram Holt practiced in Pomfret about fifty years. He was a native of Hampton, and his labors closed with his death in 1870. Doctors Lewis and Elisha Williams also practiced in Pomfret. Doctor Alexander

Vinton practiced for a short time in Abington before entering the church ministry. The first physicians of the modern village of Putnam, about forty years ago, were Doctors Hough, Plimpton and Perry. Doctor C. H. Bromley practiced medicine in Scotland for many years. Doctors Orin Witter, senior and junior, occupied the field in Chaplin so long that their names became household words among the people. Doctor Elijah Baldwin, after practicing in Canterbury and adjoining towns for more than sixty years, died in March, 1867. A son of the same name succeeded him in practice. The third Doctor Palmer, of Ashford, practiced for a time in Canterbury village. Doctor William H. Cogswell, of Plainfield, after a long life spent in the medical profession, died about ten years since. He was widely known in professional and public life. His services as agent for Connecticut in charge of sick and wounded soldiers during the late war, were especially valuable. In public and private, in church and state, he was alike useful and honored. Doctor Charles A. Fox practiced medicine in Thompson from 1852 about to 1860, when he moved hence. Doctor Charles Hartford practiced several years in Thompson, gaining there a very strong constituency. He died March 18th, 1877. Later, Doctor E. T. Morse practiced three or four years on the same field. He came hither from the lower towns of the county, and removed hence to East Hartford. Doctors McGregor, Holbrook and Bowen have also practiced in that town. Doctor Lathrop practiced in Grosvenor Dale, and died there several years since. Doctor Sargent also practiced in that village, and afterward removed to Webster, Mass.

The *Windham County Medical Society* is one of the oldest in the state. Its origin is largely due to the active spirit of Doctor Albigeance Waldo, through whose efforts the leading physicians of the county and its vicinity instituted a monthly meeting some years previous to the formation of the Connecticut Medical Society. In June, 1786, they held a meeting at Dudley; in August at Stafford; in September at Cargill's (now Putnam); in October at Canterbury. At the latter meeting there were present Doctors Coit of Thompson, Palmer of Ashford, Gleason of Killingly, Lord and Warner of Abington, Clark of Hampton, Spalding of Mansfield, and Huntington of Westford. These meetings were continued with increasing numbers and interest till 1791, when a more formal organization of a Windham County Society ap-

pears to have been effected. Of this organization no record has been preserved, beyond the fact that Doctor Waldo was clerk, either of the preliminary organization or of the new one. He was doubtless a prominent figure in the new society, and was also one of the organizers of the State Society in 1792.

The records of the County Society previous to 1793 have been lost, but the roll of members at that time was as follows: Doctors Jonathan Averill, Thomas Backus, Leonard Bacon, Joseph Baker, John Barker, Samuel Barker, Gershom Beardsley, John Brewster, Allen Campbell, Benjamin Carter, Penuel Cheney, John Clark, Sen., John Clark, Jr., Thadeus Clark, Josiah Coit, Noah Coleman, Azal Ensworth, Thomas Glysson, Daniel Gordon, Jonathan Hall, Walter Hough, Jacob Hovey, Penuel Hutchins, Isaac Knight, Elisha Lord, Joseph Palmer, Elisha Perkins, Thomas Robinson, Albigence Waldo, Roger Waldo, Jared Warner and Jesse Wheaton. Parts of the records are defective, but as far as they are complete enough to show it the list of presidents has been as follows: John Clark, 1793; Elisha Lord, 1794, '96; Elisha Perkins, 1795; John Brewster, 1797-99, 1801; Joseph Baker, 1800, 1802; Thomas Hubbard, 1803, 1807-8, 1811-12, '14, '18, '22, '27, '29; Jonathan Hall, 1806; Joseph Palmer, 1809; Erastus Robinson, 1810; Penuel Hutchins, 1813, '15-16, '19, '21, '30, '35; Rufus Johnson, 1817; Samuel Hutchins, 1823; Josiah Fuller, 1824; Silas Fuller, 1825; Darius Hutchins, 1826, '28, '38; Joseph Palmer, 1831, '33-34; Andrew Harris, 1832, '37, '39; Morey Burgess, 1836, '45; Elijah Baldwin, 1840, '44, '59; Eleazer Litchfield, 1841; Chester Hunt, 1842; Hiram Holt, 1843, '46, '68; William Witter, 1847; Lorenzo Marcey, 1848, '50; William H. Cogswell, 1849, '52-53, '57-58, '61; Orrin Witter, 1851, '55; Lewis Williams, 1856, '69, '74; Harvey Campbell, 1854, '65-66; Samuel Hutchins, 1860, '63, '80, '83; C. B. Bromley, 1862, '64; James B. Whitcomb, 1867; Lowell Holbrook, 1870, '76; Milton Bradford, 1871; Justin Hammond, 1872; E. Huntington, 1873; Elijah Baldwin, 1875, '79; William A. Lewis, 1877, '84; John Witter, 1878, '82; H. W. Hough, 1881; T. M. Hills, 1885; R. Robinson, 1886; Charles James Fox, 1887; F. G. Sawtelle, 1888. The successive secretaries of the society in the same time have been: Thadeus Clark, 1793; Joseph Baker, 1794-95; Thomas Hubbard, 1796-1800; Josiah Fuller, 1801-03; record blank, 1804-5; Thomas Morse, 1806-10; Darius Hutchins, 1811-13; William A. Brewster, 1814-19; record blank, 1820; Waldo Hutchins, 1821-25; William Hutchins, 1826-

31; James B. Whitcomb, 1832-35; William Hutchins, 1836-41; James B. Whitcomb, 1842-44; William Hutchins, 1845; James B. Whitcomb, 1846-61; W. Woodbridge, 1862; Gideon F. Barstow, 1863-64; Samuel Hutchins, 1864-75; John B. Kent, 1876-80; R. Robinson, 1881-83; W. W. Foster, 1884; Charles James Fox, 1885-86; Charles N. Allen, 1887-89.

The officers of the society for 1888 were: President, Doctor F. G. Sawtelle, of Pomfret; vice-president, Doctor J. B. Kent, of Putnam; censors—Doctors O. B. Griggs, Lowell Holbrook and H. F. Hammond; county reporter, Doctor N. Hibbard, of Danielsonville; clerk, Doctor Charles N. Allen, of Moosup. The present membership comprises Doctors John H. Simmons, of Ashford; A. E. Darling, H. F. Hammond, of Killingly; Edwin A. Hill, Charles E. Hill, of East Killingly; Rienzi Robinson, Nathaniel Hibbard, W. H. Judson, of Danielsonville; E. H. Davis, of Plainfield; Charles N. Allen, William A. Lewis, of Moosup; Charles H. Rogers, of Central Village; F. G. Sawtelle, F. W. Chapin, of Pomfret; H. W. Hough, John Witter, J. B. Kent, F. A. Morrell, Omar La Rue, F. X. Barolet, of Putnam; E. D. Kimball, of Scotland; Lowell Holbrook, of Thompson; A. A. Latour, of Grosvenor Dale; Frank N. Olin, of North Woodstock; Frederick Rogers, T. Morton Hills, O. B. Griggs, Charles J. Fox, F. O. Bennett, T. R. Parker, D. D. Jacobs, Samuel David, W. J. Connor, E. D. Card, of Willimantic; F. E. Guild, of Windham; and E. E. Gaylord, of Woodstock.

Doctor Lewis Williams was born in the town of Pomfret in 1815. At the age of fifteen he entered Amherst College, but was prevented by disease of the eyes from completing a regular course at that time, abandoning his studies during the second year. Regaining his health, he began the study of medicine, and graduated at Harvard Medical College in 1842. He married Clara Baldwin, of Woburn, Mass., in 1843, and commenced practice in his native town, where he continued to work almost unremittingly for nearly forty years. He was an active member of the Windham County Medical Society, and for many years a permanent member of the American Medical Association. In 1850 he was appointed one of the examining committee for the medical department of Yale College, serving twice for a term of three years each time. For eleven years before his death he was one of the quarterly visitors to the Insane Retreat at Hartford, and his name was associated with all

the educational interests of his own town. He was for several years one of the trustees of the State Normal school. He kept pace with medical progress by daily study, and remained a student to the end of his life. He was deeply impressed with the dignity of his profession, and of his responsibilities as one of its members. He stood forth prominently among his contemporaries, and his counsels were always in demand. His sympathies were on the side of humanity and progress, and none could gainsay the honesty of his convictions or the integrity of his purpose. He died at the age of sixty-five, June 22d, 1881, thus closing a life of arduous labors and great usefulness.

Doctor Justin Hammond was born about the year 1804. He graduated at Brown University, and studied medicine with Doctor Usher Parsons, of Providence, R. I., then graduated at Harvard Medical College. He practiced medicine in Killingly forty-three years, until his death, in July, 1873, at which time he was sixty-nine years of age. He was widely known for medical skill and great devotion to his patients. He for many years held the office of selectman, and represented the town in the state legislature in 1871.

Samuel Hutchins, M. D., son of Doctor Theophilus Hutchins, was born in Seekonk, Mass., June 3d, 1818. After receiving a classical education in Providence, R. I., he read medicine with his father and Doctor L. Willer, of the same city, and attended lectures at the Harvard Medical College, where he graduated in 1841. He commenced practice in Danielsonville in the year following, and continued in that field until the time of his death, with the exception of one year spent in California. After his return from the Pacific coast he married Miss Ellen Weatherhead. Four daughters and one son were born to them. The son died, but the four daughters, as well as their mother, still survive. Doctor Hutchins was a skilled practitioner and an enthusiast in his profession. He became a member of the Congregational church in Danielsonville in 1855, and was an active and respected member of the society, often being called to positions of honor and trust among his fellow citizens. He was many years a member of the board of education; at one time was appointed United States examiner for pensions; also held at different times the offices of president of the Windham County Medical Society and vice-president of the Connecticut Medical Society, which latter office he held at the time of his

death, he being then one of the oldest physicians in the county. He died January 16th, 1886, deeply mourned and universally respected.

Charles H. Rogers, M. D., son of Charles Rogers, was born in Pomfret in 1818. At the age of twenty years he entered a grammar school at Hartford, and in 1840 entered Yale College, whence he graduated in the Arts in 1844, and in Medicine in 1847. He began practice the latter year in Woodstock, and in 1856 he came to Central Village, where he has been established in practice ever since. During the late war he served about two years as assistant surgeon in the Eleventh regiment of Connecticut Volunteers. He held the office of school committee for sixteen years. He married May 28th, 1848, Sarah C., daughter of Doctor Thomas Morse, of West Woodstock. Their three children are Mary P., now Mrs. Calvin H. Lee; Lillian S., now Mrs. Charles A. Bock; and E. Clinton Rogers. He is a member of the Congregational church at Central Village, a member of Kilburn Post, G. A. R., and of the County Medical Society.

Ernest D. Kimball, M. D., was born in Scotland, Conn., December 17th, 1863, being the son of James D. Kimball. He spent most of his boyhood and youth previous to his seventeenth year on his grandfather's farm, attending the district school when that was in session. After attending a select school for twenty weeks he commenced to read medicine with Doctor D. L. Ross, who was then practicing in Scotland, paying for his board and instruction by taking care of the doctor's horses. He graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Baltimore, Md., March 15th, 1886. After graduating he returned to his native town and commenced practice, taking the place of his preceptor. He gives special attention to particular diseases, and practices one day in a week at Willimantic. March 15th, 1887, he married Miss Etta M. Parkhurst, of Scotland, by whom he has had one child, which died in infancy. Doctor Kimball is a member of the Connecticut State Medical Society, and holds the office of medical examiner for the town of Scotland.

Frank Eugene Guild, M. D., now of Windham, was born in Thompson, August 14th, 1853. He was the son of Reverend James B. Guild, who was at that time pastor of the Brandy Hill Baptist church, where he died in September following. The mother of our subject, whose maiden name was Julia A. Griggs, soon after the death of her husband, removed successively to

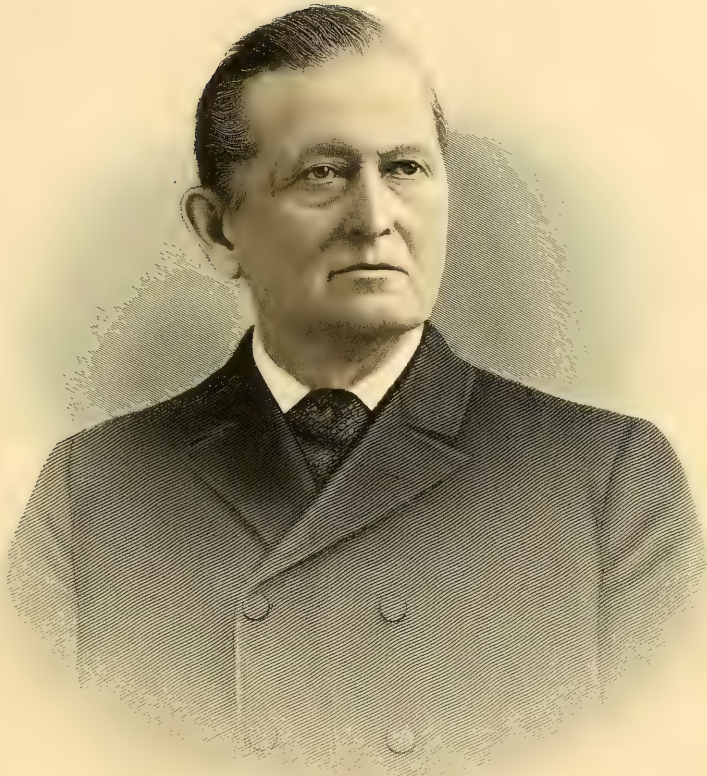
West Woodstock, Willington, Killingly and Putnam, where a considerable part of the youthful life of her son Frank was spent, bringing him up to his seventeenth year. After working a year in the shops of the Stanley Rule and Level Company, he entered the Connecticut State Normal School, from which he graduated in the winter of 1874. In August following, he went to Matawan, N. J., where he taught the public schools of that place until the spring of 1882, with the exception of one year spent at Grosvenor Dale, in this county. In the fall of 1882 he entered the Long Island College Hospital, from which he graduated June 3d, 1885. In the autumn of that year he received an appointment as assistant physician to Kings County Hospital, at Flatbush, L. I., where he remained until the 17th of October, 1886. Thence he came directly to Windham and established himself in his present field of practice. While in college he was assistant demonstrator of anatomy, and vice-president of his class. He is a member of the county and state medical societies, and yet unmarried.

Chester Hunt, M. D., was born in Columbia, Conn., February 24th, 1789. He was the son of Eldad and Huldah (Benton) Hunt. He studied medicine with Doctor Cyrus Fuller, of Columbia, and practiced in that town from 1812 to 1815, when he removed to Windham, where he continued to practice until his death, which took place August 20th, 1869. He was twice married, but at the time of his death had but one child living, Mrs. Delia Benton, widow of James M. Hebard.

David C. Card, M. D., D. D. S., is a grandson of Joshua Card, who resided in Sterling, Windham county, where his life was devoted to the management of a farm. His wife, formerly a Miss Clark, was the mother of one son, Joshua, and four daughters, Hannah, Tabitha, Sally and Ruth. Their only son, Joshua, was born December 24th, 1776, in Sterling, where his early life was spent as a teacher. Later, he purchased a farm in Charlestown, Washington county, Rhode Island, and was also the landlord of a popular public house. He was a prominent citizen, held the office of justice of the peace, and did much surveying in various portions of the county. He married Sally, daughter of Benjamin Clark, of Sterling. The children of this marriage are: Sally (Mrs. Amos Greene), Mercy (Mrs. Perry Tucker), Anna (Mrs. William Tucker), Joshua B., Lucinda (Mrs. Green Card), Benjamin, Welcome, Betsey (Mrs. Simeon Card), Alzada W. (Mrs.

Clark Reynolds), and David Clark, the subject of this biography, whose birth occurred on the 2d of March, 1822, in Charlestown, Rhode Island. Here his early youth was spent as a pupil of the district school, after which his studies were completed at the Smithville Seminary, at Scituate, in the same state. Deciding to make the practice of medicine his life work, he entered the office of Doctor William H. Hubbard, of Crompton, Rhode Island, and in accordance with the law of that early day, spent three years in study under his preceptor. Then becoming a student of the medical department of the University of New York, he graduated and was granted a diploma by that institution in 1849, Doctor Valentine Mott being his professor in surgery.

Doctor Card began practice in 1850 at Clayville, in the same state, and three years later located at Carolina Mills, in Washington county, Rhode Island. Here he followed his profession successfully for nine years, when Willimantic, in 1861, offered an attractive field for his abilities. In 1864, during the late civil war, he entered the service as surgeon-in-charge of the right wing of the heavy artillery located on the James river in Virginia, under General Butler, and continued until the close of the conflict. Resuming his practice in Willimantic, he has until the present time been busily engaged in its arduous duties throughout the county, and is now among the oldest practitioners in the borough. In 1866 he was appointed examining surgeon for his district by the Commissioner of Pensions, and continued thus to act until 1870. In 1871 he spent a year in Baltimore, Maryland, in the study of dental surgery, and on his return added this branch of practice to his former profession. The doctor was formerly a republican in politics, afterward entered with spirit into the liberal movement during the Greely campaign, and now votes independently and for the best man, irrespective of party. He is a member and trustee of the Willimantic Methodist Episcopal church, and past commander of St. John's Commandery No. 11, of Willimantic. Doctor Card was married March 25th, 1852, to Hannah T., daughter of Nathaniel Thurber, of Foster, Rhode Island. Their children are: Everett D. C., a practicing physician in Willimantic; Huber D., a student in the Boston School of Technology; and two who are deceased, Annette T. and David H.



DAVID C. CARD

David C. Card, M.D.D.S.

Everett D. C. Card graduated in 1875 from Hillside Seminary, Norwalk, Conn., and then entered the medical department of the University of the City of New York, from which institution he received a diploma in 1881. He began practice in Willimantic in 1882. He is a member of the Windham County Medical Society.

Eliphalet Huntington, M. D., was born of a prominent family of Windham, March 3d, 1816. He studied medicine under Doctor William Webb, of his native town, and received his diploma from Dartmouth College in 1848. He began to practice medicine at Chicopee, Mass., where he remained five years. He then assisted Doctor F. S. Burgess, of Plainfield, for a time, and returned to his native town about 1855, where he died December 30th, 1882.

Surgeon General Charles James Fox, of Willimantic, was born in Wethersfield, December 21st, 1854. He was thoroughly educated in district and private schools, graduated at the Hartford High School, class of 1872, and fitted to enter college at the age of eighteen. He received the degree of M. D., with high honors, at the medical department of the University of New York, in February, 1876. After a thorough training at Bellevue and Charity hospitals of New York, during the time covered by the dates given, he received the appointment of house physician and surgeon from March 1st, 1876, to March 1st, 1877, at the Hartford Hospital. He located at Willimantic in April, 1877, where he has since been in active practice. He is a member and ex-president of the County Medical Society, a member of the State Medical Association, a permanent member of the American Medical Association and of the American Health Association. He has always interested himself in professional rather than political matters. May 18th, 1887, he married Lillian Winslow, daughter of Reverend Horace Winslow, a former pastor of the Willimantic Congregational church. She died of acute Bright's disease September 28th, 1888, leaving no children. A frequent contributor to the leading medical journals, his writings attracted marked attention. The *Journal* of the American Medical Association pays him the high compliment of referring to him editorially as "one of the most active and intelligent members of the profession in his state," and declaring that, though still a young man, he "has already attained distinction in his profession."

Doctor Fox was Fellow from the Windham Medical Society to the Connecticut State Medical Society in 1879, '81 and '84, was chairman of the committee on matters of professional interest to the state in 1885, and has frequently been chosen as the representative of the state society to other state organizations. He was elected by the American Medical Association to represent that body before the medical organizations of Europe in 1881 and 1882, and has been medical examiner under the new coroner's law since July 1st, 1883. He has also been United States examining surgeon for pensioners since December, 1883, and was appointed surgeon general of the state of Connecticut, January 6th, 1887, which office he still retains. Not oblivious to the importance of improving the social features of life, General Fox is a member of the Putnam Phalanx of Hartford, and a Knight Templar, serving with high honor in the chairs of the various Masonic bodies. Foreseeing the great advantage of such an institution to Willimantic, he became a charter member of the Board of Trade of that borough. He is also eminent commander of St. John's Commandery No. 11, Knights Templar, of Willimantic, and an officer of the Grand Commandery of that order in the state.

Doctor Theodore Raymond Parker, a native of Montville, New London county, was born July 19th, 1855. He was the only son of Augustus A. and Harriet R. (Dolbeare) Parker. His early education was obtained in the common schools, supplemented by a classical course at Norwich Free Academy, where he graduated in 1876. He then studied one year with Doctor Lewis S. Parker, of Norwich, after which he entered Yale Medical College, where he took three courses of lectures. In 1886 he graduated from the University of New York, and commenced practice in the same year at Columbia, Conn. Remaining there till 1882, he then came to Willimantic, where he still pursues the practice of his profession. He is a member of the county and state medical societies. His wife is the daughter of Edwin A. Buck.

Samuel David, M. D., a native of the Province of Quebec, Canada, where he was born, at Chambly, August 13th, 1822, has practiced medicine at Willimantic since 1882. He was educated at Chambly College and graduated from Montreal Victoria Medical College in 1846. He practiced at St. Ours until he came to Willimantic. He married Catharine Bazin and has had nine children, two of whom died in infancy. The others are: Hermine,

wife of Doctor Omer La Rue, of Putnam ; Victor Samuel, a lawyer residing in Canada ; Charles H., a practicing physician at Stafford Springs, Conn. ; Emma ; Adelaid D., born in St. Ours, Canada, May 10th, 1862, educated at Sorel College, and now engaged in the drug business with his father on Main street, Willimantic, under the firm name of A. D. David & Co., and still pursuing medical studies, expecting to finish the course in the fall of 1889 ; and two other daughters, Angelina and Wilhelmina.

Oliver B. Griggs, M. D.—The ancestry of this gentleman came from Scotland, in Europe, between 1650 and 1700, and settled in Roxbury, Mass. Thence two of the name—Joseph and Benjamin—emigrated to New Roxbury, Conn., where they became permanent settlers. Here their descendants have ever since resided. The great-grandfather of Doctor Griggs served during the revolutionary war, and Doctor Griggs has in his possession a military commission granted in 1771 to this ancestor by Governor Jonathan Trumbull, the original character to whom the title "Brother Jonathan" was given. Doctor Griggs' maternal grandfather, John Burnham, was engaged in the battle of Bunker Hill and served through the war, while his grandfather on the other side, Captain Elijah Griggs, commanded a company at New London in the war of 1812. The father of our subject, Elijah Griggs, Jr., soon after his marriage removed from his former home in Pomfret to the town of Homer, Cortland county, N. Y., where Oliver was born, August 31st, 1823. About four years later his parents returned to Pomfret, where they continued to reside while he was growing up, surrounded, meanwhile, by the comfortable circumstances of a well-to-do farm homestead. After attending the common school in Abington during his boyhood, at the age of seventeen he attended the academy at Lebanon one year and later spent nearly two years in Bacon Academy at Colchester. He taught school during five winters and two summers. At the age of twenty he began to study medicine with Doctor William Witter, a prominent physician and surgeon of Willimantic. After being under his tuition four years he attended lectures at the Medical College of the University of the City of New York, where he graduated in March, 1847. During the same spring, being then in his twenty-fifth year, he commenced the practice of medicine in Windsor, Conn., where he remained until the fall of 1856. After this time he removed to Mansfield, Conn., where he practiced till the spring of 1876. He

then removed to Willimantic, where he has practiced ever since.

For several years he was a member of the school board at Windsor, and during part of the time was acting school visitor. In 1858 he was elected town clerk and treasurer of Mansfield, and a year later, probate judge, justice of the peace and member of the board of education. Other official honors followed until he held nine different offices, all of which he held continuously until 1873, and some of them as long as he remained in Mansfield. On the 16th of July, 1848, he was married to Ann Eliza Norton, youngest daughter of Theron Norton, Esq., of Sangerfield, Oneida county, N. Y., her parents having, years before, moved to that place from Goshen, Litchfield county, Conn. Of three children born to Doctor Griggs, one died in infancy. The two surviving are Arthur Burnham, born December 21st, 1854, and Theron Norton, born February 27th, 1856.

Dewitt Clinton Lathrop, M. D., the eldest of four children of James and Clarissa (Spicer) Lathrop, was born at Franklin, Conn., June 20th, 1819. His father was a farmer, and he secured a common school education, after which he studied medicine and graduated from Yale Medical College in the class of 1845. After receiving his diploma he practiced medicine with Doctor Ashbel Woodward, of his native town. In 1846 he commenced to practice by himself in Ashford, but in the following year he came to Windham Centre, where he remained till 1859, when he removed to Norwich. On the outbreak of the civil war he was appointed assistant surgeon of the Eighth Connecticut Infantry, and died in the service April 18th, 1862, at Newbern, N. C. A monument to his memory was erected in the cemetery at Windham, by the members of his regiment. His wife was Charlotte Gray, a native of Windham. Their three sons survived him. James is master of athletics at Harvard College, William Webb resides in Bridgeport, Conn., and Henry Clinton is cashier of Windham National Bank, at Willimantic.

Doctor Francis X. Barolet, a native of Riviere Du Loup, in the province of Quebec, Canada, was educated at La Assumption College, and after graduating there took a medical course at the University of Victoria, at Montreal, from which he graduated in 1855. He commenced the practice of medicine at St. Guillaume d'Upton, Quebec, where he continued till 1867, when he came to Baltic, Conn. At the latter place he spent but

a short time, removing to Putnam, where he practiced about twenty years. In 1887 he sold his practice and returned to St. Guillaume, where he now resides. His wife was Maria Luce Henrietta Chenevert. Of their four children one died in infancy. The other three are Louis Phillip, a dentist at Pawtucket, R. I.; Armand, born at St. Guillaume, July 28th, 1863, graduated from Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, married Rosaline Jasmin, has one child named Valmor, and is now a surgeon dentist in Putnam; and Antonine, wife of Arthur Jasmin, and resides at St. Guillaume.

Gardner L. Miller, M. D.—Augustus Miller, the grandfather of Doctor Miller, resided in the town of Wales, Mass. Among his ten children was a son George W., who removed to Springfield, in the same state, where he was connected with the Springfield armory. By his union with Eliza, daughter of Jasper and Sophia Hyde, of Stafford, were born Francis H. and Ella S., both deceased, and Gardner L., the subject of this biography, whose birth occurred June 13th, 1857, in Stafford. At the age of five he removed with his parents to Springfield, and on attaining his eleventh year again made Stafford his home. Here he attended the public schools and completed his academic education at the Monson Academy. He began the study of medicine with Doctor C. S. Sprague, of Stafford, now deceased, and in 1877 entered the New York Homeopathic Medical College from which his diploma was received in 1880. He then located in Putnam and practiced for three years with success, when, desiring further opportunities for a thorough knowledge of his profession, he went abroad and spent six months in the University and hospitals of Vienna. Doctor Miller on his return resumed practice in Putnam and has since been thoroughly engrossed with the labors incident to his profession. His field has constantly increased in dimensions, which may be regarded as a fair measure of the success he has attained.

The doctor is a member of the State Homeopathic Medical Society and of the Worcester County Medical Society of Worcester, Mass. He is a director of the Electric Light Company of Putnam, and has been somewhat active in local republican movements, having served as member and chairman of the town committee, etc. No citizen has perhaps in so great a degree promoted the development of the town by the erection of buildings and the improvement of property. He was the prime mover

in the co-operative building association, and has lent a willing hand to all public spirited enterprises. He is a member of Quinebaug Lodge, No. 106, of Free and Accepted Masons of Putnam and of Putnam Chapter. Doctor Miller married, in 1880, Alice Holmes, of Ware, Mass. They have two children, a daughter, Florence H., and a son, George L., aged respectively eight and six years.

Doctor Frederic A. Morrell is a native of the village of Strong, Franklin county, Maine, where he was born October 26th, 1857. He was the second son of James and Hannah (Hull) Morrell. After the usual common school experiences, he finished his general education at the Waterville Classical Institute. After studying medicine with Doctor P. Dyer, of Farmington, Me., he spent three years in the Long Island College Hospital, at Brooklyn, N. Y., and graduated there in 1885. He then spent a year in the Brooklyn City Hospital, after which, in the fall of 1886, he commenced practice in Putnam, in company with Doctor J. B. Kent. He is a member of the state and county medical societies. He married Edith I. Body, and they have one son, to whom they have given the name of the father.

Omer La Rue, M. D., was born at St. Dennis, in the province of Quebec, March 14th, 1849. He was the second son and fifth child of Levi and Ann (Laptte) La Rue. From the age of eleven to nineteen years he was at the College of St. Hyacinthe, and graduated from the University of Victoria at Montreal in 1872. He removed to Putnam during the same year, and has since resided there, engaged in the practice of medicine. Here he held the office of chairman of the board of selectmen for 1887 and 1888, and clerk of that body for 1888-89. He married Hermine, daughter of Doctor Samuel David. They have six children: Antonia, Arthur, Eudore, Bella, Aline and Maude. He is a member of the county and state medical societies. He is also president of the St. John Baptist Society of Putnam, and was president of the first convention of a benevolent society of French Canadians held in Connecticut, which took place in Willimantic in 1886; also an officer in a subsequent convention of the same society, and was delegate from Putnam to the national convention of the same organization, which was held in Nashville, Tenn., in 1888.

Daniel Bacon Plimpton, M. D., the second son of Chauncy and Calista (Bacon) Plimpton, was born at Worcester, Mass., March



G. L. Miller

4th, 1821. He received an academical education at Monson's Academy, at Monson, Mass., and graduated from the medical college at Woodstock, Vt., in 1841. He afterward attended a course of medical lectures at Boston. In 1846 he commenced the practice of medicine at North Oxford, Mass., where he remained about one year and a half, and then spent four months in Charlton, Mass. In the fall of 1847 he came to Putnam, and practiced here until his death, in April, 1884, with the exception of a year and a half spent in business in Springfield, Mass. His wife was Tamar Davis, daughter of Asa Cutler, a native of Killingly. They had two sons, Frederick Clinton and James Manning, both of whom are engaged in the Plimpton Manufacturing Company, of Hartford.

John H. Simmons, M. D., was born November 21st, 1811, at Ashford, in this county. His parents were Alva and Tryphena Simmons. His childhood and youth were spent in his native place, he receiving his early education in the district school and Ashford Academy. He received his diploma from the Medical Institution of Yale College in 1833. He was married to Mary Smart, of Salem, N. J., May 23d, 1839, by whom he had four children, three sons and one daughter. The three sons were in the United States service in the late war. The daughter died in 1879. He was married the second time, to Mrs. Emeline E. Moulton, November 19th, 1877. He began the practice of medicine in 1833 at Pomfret Factory (now Putnam). After remaining there one year he removed to Ashford, where he has continued to practice till the present time. A very satisfactory degree of success has attended his labors, and he is still able, at the age of seventy-seven years, to do a comfortable business in his profession. He was a member of the state legislature in 1855, and was in the state senate in 1861 and 1864. He held an office in the Internal Revenue department for five years, was post-master in Ashford two years, registrar of voters fifteen years, and registrar of births, deaths and marriages ten years.

Lowell Holbrook, M. D., is a native of Thompson, where he has also been engaged in the practice of medicine from 1849 to the present time, with the exception of a few years spent in Brooklyn, N. Y., and other years, during the war of the rebellion, when he was in the service as surgeon of the Eighteenth regiment of Connecticut volunteers. His father and mother were Horatio Holbrook and Arcena Richardson, natives of Wrentham,

Norfolk county, Mass. His father, Doctor Horatio Holbrook, was a practicing physician in Thompson and vicinity from 1815 to 1856. The education of the son, Doctor Lowell Holbrook, was at Plainfield Academy, Monson Academy, Mass., and Brown University, R. I. His medical education was at the New York University, whence he received his diploma in 1849. He was married in 1845 to Mary E. Fisher, daughter of William Fisher, Esq., of Thompson, who was one of the earliest cotton manufacturers of Connecticut. She is still living, but they have no children. Among the most important official positions held by him may be named those of representative of Thompson in the state legislature in 1879 and president of the Connecticut Medical Society in 1884.

Ichabod L. Bradley, M.D., was born in Stafford, Conn., April 17th, 1819, being the youngest son of Elisha and Abigail (Kellogg) Bradley. He studied medicine with Doctor Isaac Sperry, of Hartford, his practice being in the botanic course of medicine. He commenced to practice in Ashford, in this county, in 1848, following the profession in that town and Eastford for five years, when he came to Putnam, in which town he practiced until his death, November 18th, 1880. His wife was Adaline, daughter of Leland and Casandana (Ransom) Slayton, a native of Woodstock, Vt. Her mother was a sister of General T. B. Ransom, who was killed in battle during the Mexican war. Their children were: Frank S., now living in Newark, N. J.; Jane, who died at the age of nine years; Ransom H., who resides in Putnam; George S., who resides in New Haven; Carrie L., wife of Reverend Mortimer Gascoigne, a Methodist clergyman, located in Ohio; and Leland, who is doing business in Southbridge, but makes his home in Putnam.

Doctor Louis Oude Morasse was born in Sorel, province of Quebec, Canada, November 15th, 1860. He was the eldest son of Louis and Annette (Pouliob) Morasse. At the age of twelve years he entered the College of Sorel, and after remaining there three years he attended the Seminary of Three Rivers two years. He graduated from Sorel College in 1878, and afterward attended a medical course at the University Victoria, at Montreal, receiving his diploma in 1884. He practiced in Sorel one year, and in 1885 removed to Southbridge, Mass., and in 1887 came to Putnam, taking there the practice established by Doctor F. X. Barolet. He is a member of the state and county medical societies. He was married May 3d, 1886, to Celia O. Bunze.

William Richardson, M. D., whose genealogy is traced from one of the same name who died in 1658, was a native of Londonderry, N. H. The early ancestor referred to was William Richardson, of Newbury, Mass., who married Elizabeth Wiseman, August 22d, 1654, and had a son, Joseph, born May 18th, 1655. The wife of Joseph, Margaret Godfrey, is said to have been the first white child born in Newbury. The youngest of their eight children was Caleb, born June 9th, 1704. He married Tryphena Bodwell, and they had ten children. Among the ten was William, born October 21st, 1756, a drummer in the revolutionary war, married Lydia Messer, and died March 21st, 1836. He had nine children, the third of which was William M., born February 12th, 1795, married Betsey Pettengill, and had five children, the oldest of whom was William P., born July 26th, 1821, married Sarah Hale Goodwin, and had four children. He was a blacksmith, farmer and lumber manufacturer of Londonderry, N. H. The second of his four children was William, the subject of this sketch. He was born February 26th, 1860. Spending his boyhood at work on the farm, in the woods and in the saw mill, and gathering his early education in the district school, he afterward attended the McGaw Normal Institute, at Reed's Ferry, N. H., several terms. In 1880 he began the study of medicine, attended three courses of lectures at Dartmouth Medical College, and received his diploma from that college November 13th, 1883. He began to practice medicine in Lowell, Mass., in January, 1884, but returned to Londonderry in June of the same year, remaining there most of the time until June, 1887, when he settled in Westford, and has practiced there until the present time. In 1884 he practiced a few months in Alexandria and Salisbury, N. H., and in 1886 spent part of the autumn in the New York Polyclinic School. He married, August 27th, 1884, Esther F. Whidden, of Auburn, N. H., and has had three children, but one of whom is now living, Florence, born March 28th, 1886.

Doctor Levi A. Bliss, now residing at East Woodstock, was born and educated in Massachusetts, his native town being Brookfield. He was born in August, 1828. He practiced medicine a number of years in Woodstock and adjoining towns, being one of the pioneers in the Homeopathic school of practice. He served in the late war as a member of Company K, in the Seventh regiment of Connecticut volunteers, receiving in the

service injuries which in their subsequent development rendered him incapable of pursuing the practice of his profession. For several years he has been an invalid, almost entirely confined to the house. In the autumn of 1850 he married Lydia A. Coomes, of Woodstock, who is still living. They have no children.

Doctor Frederic G. Sawtelle was born at Norridgewick, Me., educated at the Long Island College Hospital, at Brooklyn, N. Y., and established himself in the practice of medicine at Pomfret in 1881. He engaged in this field at the invitation of some of the citizens, after the death of Doctor Lewis Williams. His wife was Elizabeth Winthrop Tappan, and they have two children.

Doctor Joseph D'Auray was born in Ste. Marie de Mannoir, Canada, in 1845. His parents were Charles C. and Marie Louise (Messier) D'Auray. At an early age he was sent to college at Ste. Marie, where he went through a classical course, and graduated with distinction in 1867. He then pursued the study of medicine, and received his degree at Bishop Medical and Surgical Institute, I. S. In 1871 he commenced practicing at Danielsonville. Six months later he removed to Woonsocket, R. I., and practiced there for two years. He published for a time the first French newspaper in Rhode Island, *Le Canadien*. In 1872 he was married and has had ten children born to him, five of whom are still living. He soon sold out and returned to Danielsonville, where he has since practiced with good success. He is the founder of two benevolent societies and a literary club, of which he was president, was an instigator of the first Canadian Convention of Connecticut, and made president of its first executive committee in 1884.

Seth Rogers, M. D., although not claiming to be a Windham county physician in all senses of the term, is yet too much associated with our subject to be passed without mention. He is about sixty-five years of age, and practiced medicine thirty years, during about ten of which he had a sanitarium. He now resides in Pomfret Centre, to which place he came from Worcester, Mass., after the civil war. He came here for rest and retirement, and during the twenty years or more that he has resided here has not taken up general practice, though he has occasionally been associated in consultation with other physicians. "He is a man of fine education and is well known in the cities

as a physician." This remark is made on the authority of one of the prominent members of the Windham county medical fraternity, whose words are few and weighty.

Doctor John Bryden Kent was born in Truro, Nova Scotia, November 16th, 1845. His parents were of Scotch descent with an admixture of English blood from his maternal grandmother. After attending the common schools and private school for boys he entered the Provincial Academy, graduating thence in 1864. In the following year he entered upon the study of medicine with Doctor Charles Bent, in his native town, and in the fall of that year entered the medical department of Harvard University. He graduated from that institution in 1869, and soon after came to Putnam, and at once began the practice of his profession. Here he still remains. In 1882 he took a special course at Bellevue Hospital, in New York city, in gynecology, and has since made that subject a specialty in his practice. For two years past he has been associated in business with Doctor F. A. Morrell, under the firm name of Kent & Morrell. He was married in 1872 to Helen Abbie, only daughter of Honorable James W. Manning, of Putnam. They have one son, Jamie Manning Kent, now twelve years of age. Doctor Kent has been secretary of the county medical society, of which he is a member, and has seven times represented the state and county societies as a delegate to the American Medical Society, of which he is a permanent member. He has been for ten years a member of the school board, and was most of that time its chairman. He is post surgeon for the town, examining physician appointed by county coroner, and acting examining surgeon for twelve insurance companies.

Elisha Keyes Robbins, M. D., was born in Ashford, July 21st, 1821. His parents were Hosea C. and Alice Robbins, of whose ten children Elisha K. was the eldest. He received a good common school education, and then studied dentistry with Doctor Joshua Bailey, of Colchester Conn., one year. This profession not proving satisfactory, he studied medicine with Doctors Dickinson and Holmes at the same place for two years, and with Doctor H. E. Cook, of East Haddam, for another year. He then attended one course of lectures at the Eclectic Medical College of Worcester, Mass., and another course at the Metropolitan Medical College of New York, obtaining his diploma in May, 1853. Since then he practiced medicine in Webster, Mass., four

years and in Eastford the remainder of the time to the present, with the exception of three years—July, 1862, to August, 1865—spent in the U. S. army hospital. He was married, May 1st, 1842, to Lucy Ann, daughter of Captain Nathan and Lucy Burnham, of Eastford, and they have one son, Erwin E., a merchant in Putnam. Doctor Robbins has served as registrar of births, marriages and deaths ten years; as registrar of electors fifteen years; as representative to state legislature for the session of 1881, and as judge of probate for the district of Eastford two years, and has now commenced on a second term of two years in that office.

S. P. Ladd, M. D., was born in Franklin, Conn., December 5th, 1847. He was the son of S. J. P. Ladd, and the maiden name of his mother was Philena B. Hazen. She was a gifted woman and a graduate of the Academy of Wilbraham, Mass., and gave her personal attention largely to the education of her son in the years of his childhood. He was at the age of ten years placed under the care of Reverend Dr. S. J. Horton, who conducted a family school for boys at Windham. Here he received a most thorough classical training for three years, during which time his mother died and her plans with regard to his education were abandoned. His further education was, however, pursued for a few terms at Plainfield Academy and Ellington High School. Leaving the latter place in 1864, he enlisted in the United States navy, and served until after the close of the war in 1865. He then passed several months on his father's farm, and in 1866 found employment in a country store as a clerk. In April, 1869, he found a better position in a freight office in Hartford. During this year, June 7th, he married Miss Sarah A. Meacham, whose acquaintance he had made while in the Ellington High School. His son, Frederick P. Ladd, was born June 11th, 1870. While occupying these clerkships, Doctor Ladd ever preserved a vigorous determination to pursue his studies, and found some time to carry out that determination, and at the same time was able to save money enough to help him in its subsequent prosecution, though often in the face of very discouraging circumstances. He was thus enabled, in 1876, to enter the medical department of the University of the City of New York, from which he graduated in February, 1879. He then spent one year in the Hartford Hospital, the first half as assistant and the last half as resident surgeon and physician. He then practiced in Portland, Conn.,



W.W. Freston & Co NY

Frank S. Bingham M.D.

for two years and a half, and in Putnam for one and one-half years, and in 1884 removed to Moosup, where he still remains, and is realizing in his practice a degree of success exceeding his expectations.

F. S. Burgess, M. D., was born in the village of Moosup, August 15th, 1827, and was educated in the common schools until about sixteen years of age, when he was sent to a high school in Norwich for three years. After graduating there, he commenced the study of medicine with Doctor D. M. Rose, of Herkimer, N. Y., for two years. He also spent one year in the Albany Medical College, under the tutorship of Professor Alden March. He graduated from that institution in the winter of 1849-50. He was married March 16th, 1852, to Miss Julia Wheeler, of West Winfield, N. Y. She died August 16th, 1888, leaving no children. Doctor Burgess began the practice of medicine in Jewett City, New London county, in the autumn of 1851. He remained there until the autumn of 1855, when he removed to Moosup, where he has since been established. He was representative from the town of Plainfield in the state legislature in 1857 and 1867, and was surgeon-general of the state for four successive years under Governor Charles R. Ingersoll. Doctor Burgess is still in active practice, with a commendable degree of professional enthusiasm, fully determined to "die in the harness."

Nathaniel Hibbard, M. D., was born in Maulmain, Burmah, a town in British India, June 13th, 1855, his parents being American missionaries to that country, sent out by American Baptists. His father, Charles H. Hibbard, was a graduate of Brown University in 1850. Young Hibbard was brought to this country at five years of age, and has lived in New England ever since. His youth was spent in the state of Vermont. He prepared for college at the Worcester Academy, and entered Brown University in 1874. Here he graduated with the degree of A. B. in 1878, and after spending several months of 1879 in Europe, entered Harvard Medical School in the fall of that year. There he received the degree of M. D. in 1882. Since December of that year he has practiced medicine in Danielsonville. He was married to Miss Jennie Robinson, of Providence, R. I., in January, 1885, and they have one son.

Charles H. Colgrove, M. D., was born in Lisbon, New London county, Conn., in 1841, his father being a farmer of that place.

He had an academical education, and attended two courses of medical lectures at Harvard University, and graduated in Detroit in 1872. Since that time he has practiced most of the time in Willimantic, where he now resides. He was married in 1875, and has two children. He is a member of the Connecticut Homeopathic Medical Society, is contributor to two medical journals, and examiner for two insurance companies. He is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Doctor Henry L. Hammond was born at East Killingly, September 7th, 1842. After completing his studies in the common schools, he attended Williston Seminary, East Hampton, Mass., graduating from that institution, and later from Brown University, where he received the degree of B. P. in 1864. He then studied medicine, graduating at Harvard Medical College in 1866. During the late war he served as acting assistant surgeon in the 25th Army Corps, Army of the James, going into Richmond at its surrender. He commenced the practice of medicine in Pawtucket, R. I., removing thence to Hudson City, N. J., where he remained until 1876, during part of which time he was chosen city physician and police surgeon, and was in charge of the city during the epidemic of small pox. In August, 1870, he married Emma Demy Rawson, of Norwich, Conn. On account of his health, he removed to and located at Saratoga, N. Y., and later, his health still failing, he was obliged to give up his practice there; and then he spent two years in traveling, during which time he visited the Azores and some of the Canary islands. After his return he located in Killingly, where his father, Doctor Justin Hammond, had practiced medicine for forty years. In addition to a very limited practice, he was appointed assistant surgeon of the Third regiment C. N. G., which position he still holds. In December, 1884, he was appointed United States pension surgeon, and assigned to duty at Norwich, Conn., where he was made secretary of the United States pension examining board, which appointment he still retains. He was post surgeon for Windham county in 1886 and 1888. He has also been prominent in many social, beneficial, literary and professional organizations of the town and county.

Harvey H. Converse was born in Brimfield, Mass., December 19th, 1846. His mother dying when he was five years of age, leaving eight children in limited circumstances, of which he was the youngest, he was placed away from home to live, and under

such circumstances he attended the common school until he reached the age of twelve, after which he attended a grammar school in Southbridge, Mass., one year, a school in Worcester one year, and a high school in Providence, R. I., one year. Having now arrived at the age of sixteen years he went to the war and served during three years, being in twenty-two general engagements, receiving two wounds and spending two months in Libby Prison. At the close of the war he had saved eight hundred dollars, with which he set to work preparing himself for his future profession. In 1878 he graduated at the American University Eclectic Medical College of Pennsylvania, and commenced practice November 1st, of the same year, in the town of Stark, Maine. After five years' practice he was obliged by sickness to give up his work. Later he located in Hampton in this county, where he has been engaged in practice five years. He is a member of the Eclectic Medical Association of Connecticut, and holds numerous positions of local honor in the town, being also a member of the National Eclectic Medical Association.

James Fabien McIntosh, M. D. C. M., was born April 2d, 1861, at St. Polycarpe, in the county of Soulanges, Canada. In 1870 he entered the Montreal College, beginning there his classical course, and in 1876 entered the Great Seminary of Montreal to study philosophy. He began his medical course in Victoria University of Montreal, and in 1886 received the degree of M. D. C. M. In the same year he became a member of the Canada Medical Association, and on the 9th of November of the same year he came to North Grosvenor Dale to engage in the practice of medicine. April 19th, 1887, he married Marie Louise Azeline Mayer, eldest daughter of Edward Mayer, of Montreal, Canada, an officer of Her Majesty the Queen Victoria. They have one child, born January 25th, 1888, whom they have named Marie Louise Hermine Yvonne Berthe. The father of Doctor McIntosh was a member of the Hudson Bay Company.

Jesse M. Coburn, M. D., was born at Pittsfield, N. H., March 27th, 1853, being the eldest son of the Reverend J. M. Coburn, then pastor of the Pittsfield Baptist church, but in 1854 removing to the pastoral charge of the Baptist church at Manchester, N. H. Here the subject of this sketch grew up, passed through the graded public schools and fitted for Harvard College. He afterward graduated at Pembroke Academy and became a student of medicine in the office of Doctor O. S. Sanders at Boston, where

he remained two years. He then became associated with Doctor N. P. Clark, of New Boston, N. H., as a student and general practitioner, and later attended lectures at the Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia. After graduating there he entered the office of Professor J. H. Woodbury, registrar of Boston University, receiving a diploma from that institution in the class of 1874. He settled at South Framingham, Mass., and built up a large practice, which at the end of five years he disposed of and immediately assumed the practice of Doctor Frank Brigham, of Shrewsbury, Mass., during the absence of the latter in Europe. On his return, in the spring of 1881, Doctor Coburn removed to Brooklyn in this county, where he succeeded to the practice of Doctor James B. Whitcomb. In August, 1879, he married Abbie M. Cutler, daughter of A. G. Cutler, of Shrewsbury, Mass., by whom he has two sons.

Doctor S. C. Chase was born in Killingly, August 23d, 1817. He has practiced magnetism and homeopathy continuously since 1856, and after more than thirty years of professional life he expresses himself as well satisfied with the degree of success which has attended his labors. Throughout a long life he has been pre-eminently a man of affairs, having held the offices of constable, selectman, and judge of probate, and represented his native town in the state legislature. He is still in practice at East Killingly.

William H. Judson, M. D., now practicing medicine at Danielsonville, is the son of Andrew Judson, of Eastford, born August 26th, 1820, who was the son of Zuinglus Judson, also of Ashford, born January 30th, 1790, who was the son of Andrew Judson, born in Stratford, Conn., in 1749, and became the first Congregational minister settled in Eastford, and was a direct descendant of William Judson, of Yorkshire, who settled in Salem in 1632. On his mother's side, Doctor Judson is connected with the families by the names of Work, Storrs, Southworth and Matthews. He was born in Milford, Mass., June 27th, 1854, graduated at Jefferson Medical School, of Philadelphia, where he had been under the old masters, Panchost, Gross, Dacosta, and others, in 1878, and began the practice of medicine in Abington the the same year. In 1879 he removed to Wauregan, and in 1886 to Danielsonville, where he still remains. In the pursuit of his education he worked his own way, from the farm in Mendon, Mass., on which he worked till eighteen years of age, through

Phillips, Exeter, and Michigan University Medical School, and one year at Philadelphia. He was married December 3d, 1886, to Annie Kinney, at Wauregan. They have no children.

Doctor Orin Witter, the elder, was born in Brooklyn, Conn., July 15th, 1797. He studied medicine with Doctor Hutchins, of his native town, and with Doctor Thomas Hubbard, of Pomfret, completing his medical studies at Yale Medical College in the year 1820. During the same year he established himself in Chaplin as a physician, and soon gained the confidence and approbation of the people. Two years later, when the town was incorporated, he was chosen the first town clerk. He was later a member of the board of education, and also judge of probate for the district. The latter office he held for a term of years, indeed until he arrived at the age of seventy years, and was thus disqualified for holding it longer. He continued to practice medicine for nearly fifty years, and until about two years before his death. He was married to Florenda Preston, daughter of Joshua Preston, March 31st, 1824. They had two daughters and one son. One of the daughters died in infancy; Cornelia, the other daughter, married Doctor E. C. Holt, of Bennington, N. J.; and the son retains the name and profession of the father at the present time. Doctor Witter, the elder, died February 2d, 1869.

Doctor Orin Witter, the younger, was born in Chaplin, April 25th, 1835. After completing his academical course, he commenced the study of medicine under the tutorship of his father, and attended lectures at Yale Medical College and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York city, graduating at the latter institution in the year 1859. He was married to Helen A. Utley, daughter of James R. Utley, May 26th, 1864, and they have had two children, a daughter who died at four years of age and a son who is still living. After graduating, Doctor Witter commenced the practice of medicine in Chaplin with his father, and has continued in that field until the present time. He has never sought political honors, but being pressed by the solicitations of friends, consented to be once nominated and was elected to represent the town in the assembly in the year 1877. In the town he has held the office of registrar of births, marriages and deaths for a number of years.

Doctor Hiram Holt, who for nearly fifty years was a physician in active practice at Pomfret, was the son of Nehemiah Holt and Mary Lanphear, his first wife, and was born at what is now the

town of Chaplin, then Hampton, January 31st, 1798. He was a descendant of Nicholas Holt, the ancestor of the most numerous branch of the Holt family of New England, who sailed from Southampton, England, on the ship "James," of London, and landed at Boston, Mass., in 1635. His name appears on the ship roll as Nicholas Holte, of Romsey, tanner. He settled at Andover, Mass., where he died in 1685.

His grandson, George Holt, removed in 1726 from Andover to a part of the town of Windham, then known as the Canada Society. There Doctor Holt's ancestors continued to live, and there he was born. His grandfather was a soldier in the French war of 1756, and his father in the revolutionary war. His ancestors from the time of Nicholas Holt were all farmers, and he was reared on the old homestead in Chaplin, working as a farmer's boy until he was nearly of age. Then, by teaching school, he saved money enough to support himself while studying medicine. He went to Pomfret in 1821, and became a student with Doctor Thomas Hubbard, then the leading physician in eastern Connecticut and later a professor in the Medical School of Yale College. Doctor Holt attended a course of medical lectures at that school, but was not able to complete the course; he however received an honorary degree of M. D. from Yale in 1834. He then settled in Pomfret, where he continued to reside and actively practice his profession until his death, with the exception of a short period about the year 1843, during which he resided at Mexico, Oswego county, New York. He died at Pomfret, November 30th, 1870, in his seventy-third year. He married, in 1828, Marian Chandler, of Pomfret, who died in 1857. He subsequently married Martha S. Cotton, of Pomfret. Three children of the first marriage are living.

Doctor Holt had, for a country physician, a large practice and a high professional reputation. He was especially fond of surgery, for which a natural ingenuity and cleverness in the devising of appliances and the use of instruments of all kinds naturally fitted him. He always kept a complete set of carpenter's tools and other mechanical implements, the use of which, in repairing and making all kinds of household things, was one of his principal recreations, and his natural ingenuity in repairing fractures and dexterity in using instruments made all surgical operations fascinating to him. Outside of his profession he was a man of force in various respects. He had by nature a strong and log-

ical mind, with a masterful will and an unusually retentive memory. He could quote by memory whole pages from favorite authors, particularly from Scott's poems. Antiquities and local history particularly interested him, and his knowledge of the ancestry and family relations of the people of eastern Connecticut was minute and accurate. He was a capital talker, having a great fund of odd and entertaining information, and was an especially good story teller, with a keen sense of fun and admirable imitative powers. He was a man of unusual energy and activity, fond of labor for its own sake. Personally he was a good specimen of the old type of Windham county men. He was of a large and powerful frame, fully six feet high, with the massive head and strong face that one sees in the pictures of the continental generals and the New England men of that time. Mrs. Caroline F. Corbin, herself a native of Pomfret, in a novel published some years ago called "*Rebecca, or a Woman's Secret*," introduced Doctor Holt, under another name and a thin disguise, as a character in the book; and the portrait which she there draws of him is, in some respects, an accurate picture, not only of the little ways and mannerisms which were characteristic of him, but also of the essentially good and just character of the man.

Doctor William Witter was born in Canterbury in 1804, and died in 1851 at the age of forty-seven. He was the fifth in line of descent from Deacon Ebenezer Witter and his wife, Dorothy, who settled in Preston, Conn., before 1699, having come thither from Scotland, though the family is understood to be English at a more remote period of its history. The line of descent is as follows: Deacon Ebenezer Witter, farmer and founder of the family in this country, born 1668 and died in 1712. His son, Ebenezer Witter, farmer, born 1700, lived in Preston and died 1790. He was the father of fifteen children, and, as an old account quaintly says, "He was also very punctual in family worship, and when confined to his bed with a broken limb and on his back he led the family in prayer morning and evening." His son, Deacon Asa Witter, farmer, born 1744, married Joanna Kinne in 1765, lived at first in Preston, but after his marriage removed to Canterbury, and died in 1792. He was a justice of the peace, a representative in the legislature of the state, and a "councillor" among his neighbors. His son, Ebenezer Witter, farmer, born 1777, married Eunice Bass in 1799, lived in Canter-

bury, died in 1833. His son, Doctor William Witter, subject of this sketch, was born in 1804 and died in 1851. He married Emily Bingham in 1829, lived in Canterbury, studied medicine, graduating at the Medical School of Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., and settled as a practicing physician in Willimantic, where he lived thenceforward. He was a learned man in his profession, and enjoyed in the latter part of his life a surgical practice extending into the larger cities and towns of the state, was a prominent citizen, a representative and senator at times, and found time even in the midst of pressing professional duties to exercise the interest he naturally took in the cause of public education. Many young men who afterward became leading physicians, studied medicine in his office, and he seems to have been willing also to devote time to this work. He was a man of sterling integrity and uprightness, and was highly respected by all who knew him, and he especially had the love and esteem of all his many students as well as patients, toward whom he was uniformly kind and considerate, and by whom he was implicitly trusted. On his maternal side he was a descendant of the Waldo family. His grandfather, three times removed, was Cornelius Waldo, who, coming from England, settled in Ipswich, Mass., in 1654, and was the grandfather, twice removed, of Ralph Waldo Emerson. His more ancient ancestry includes Peter Waldo, the reputed founder of the sect of the Waldenses, who died in 1179.

The wife of Doctor Witter was Emily Bingham, a descendant of Captain John Bingham of revolutionary memory. Of this union were born eight children, six of whom survived early youth. These were as follows: Frances, married Hubert Foot, whom she survives with an only daughter, F. Huberta Foote; Maria, married Joseph Watson, and in second nuptials Thomas Turner, whom she survives, both of Willimantic; Emily, married Timothy Ingraham, and they have one daughter, Gertrude, who married Ezra Sanders of Cleveland, Ohio; Anne, married Herbert F. Palmer, and they have one son, F. Herbert Palmer, a graduate of Columbia College; William Clitus, the only son, was born in 1842, entered Brown University in 1861, served in the United States army, 10th Rhode Island Regiment as a non-commissioned officer, during the college vacation of 1863, returning entered Yale College and graduated in 1865, graduated from Columbia College Law School in 1867, studied law in the

office of William M. Evarts in New York city, and is now senior member of the law firm of Witter & Kenyon in that city, married Florence Wellington, of Boston, Mass., in 1871, and they have one child, Florence Waldo, born January 17th, 1887; Hortense, the youngest of the six of Doctor Witter's children, married Edson Lewis, and died in 1875, leaving one daughter, named Hortense. Some years after the death of his first wife, Doctor Witter married Cynthia Barrows, daughter of Daniel Barrows, of Mansfield, Conn.

Henry R. Lowe was born at Mercer, Maine, January 20th, 1849. His early life was spent on the farm until arriving at the age of twenty-one, meanwhile receiving a common school education. He afterward attended the Eaton Family and Day School at Norridgewock, Maine, four years. He commenced the study of medicine in 1876 with William S. Robbins, in his native town, and later attended Dartmouth Medical College, from which he graduated in the fall of 1882. He commenced the practice of medicine at Worcester, Mass., in the spring of 1883. He was married to Mrs. Exoa Stanton, of Shrewsbury, Mass., January 1st, 1884, and removed to Woodstock Valley, Conn., in the spring of 1885, where he continues to practice medicine at the present time.

William A. Lewis, M.D., was born in Greenwich, R. I., in 1829. He received his education at East Greenwich Academy, in that state, and studied medicine with Doctor Nathan S. Pike, of this county. He graduated at Harvard Medical College in 1851, and since that time has been a practicing physician of this county. He is now located in the town of Plainfield, his post office address being at Moosup. He was married in November, 1864, and has one daughter, now twenty-one years of age. Doctor Lewis was a member of the Connecticut house of representatives in 1873, and was state senator from the 13th Senatorial district from 1880 to 1882.

Isaac B. Gallup, M.D., of Willimantic, was born in West Greenwich, R. I., August 16th, 1846. After receiving an education in the usual common and select schools of the time, he read medicine with his father, Alvan W. Gallup, M.D., attended two full courses of lectures at the Eclectic Medical College of Pennsylvania and graduated in the winter of 1870-71. He immediately located at Scotland in this county, where he practiced medicine several years. In February, 1878, he removed to Willi-

mantic, where he has since remained. In the winter of 1885-86 he attended lectures at the Eclectic Medical College of New York city. He also attended, in the winter of 1888-9, a post graduate course at the New York Polyclinic (regular), visiting meanwhile the various hospitals of the city. He married Miss Marietta C. Hebard, of Scotland, Conn., September 16th, 1879, and has two children: Inez M., born July 8th, 1880, and Bertha C., born April 19th, 1883.

CHAPTER XIII.

ANECDOTE AND LOCAL STORY OF OLD WINDHAM.

BY MISS JANE GAY FULLER.

The Mystery of Cates.—The Battle of the Frogs.—Revolutionary Anecdotes:—That Little God Bacchus.—The House the Women Raised.—The Black Sheep.—A Character.—“Tea-total.”—Doctor Cogswell and Phyllis.—An Old Family of Scotland.—The Story of Micah Rood.—“No blood relation of mine.”—The Fine.—Story of Abijah Fuller.—Sabbath Breaking.—Strong minded Women.—The First Locomotive.—Windham Wags.—Old Time Pedagogues.

AN impenetrable veil enshrouds the name and fame of Windham's first settler, a veil in which many threads of romance are interwoven with dark lines of adversity. An English refugee, after long years of wandering and exile, found a resting place at last in the wild woods of Connecticut. He was a gentleman of culture and wealth, accustomed to all the refinements of civilization, the companion of rulers and statesmen. A Puritan of the Puritans, firm and indomitable as their great leader, he had rode with Cromwell and his valiant Ironsides to battle in the defense of Protestantism. But a storm cloud darkened the sky of England. The sudden death of the protector shook her political fabric from its foundation and planted another Stuart on the throne. “Blood for blood” was now the royal mandate, and the Cromwellian leaders were forced to flee from home and country to escape the block or gibbet. Everywhere throughout the Old World and the New were posted directions for the seizure and arrest of all persons known or suspected of being implicated in the fate of Charles Stuart. How many of these fearless men who dared affix their signatures to the death warrant of their king escaped to this country will never be known with any degree of certainty. That the first settler of Windham was one of them there is little reason to doubt, as tradition speaks of long journeys through the wilderness to

meet former associates, several of whom were known to be in adjoining colonies. But as simple John Cates he preserved his secret inviolate to the end. We only know for a certainty that after more than a quarter of a century of weary wandering, everywhere fearing the minions of the king, he came to Norwich and thence through an untrodden forest to his final retreat.

With a faithful negro attendant whom he had purchased in Virginia, he dug a cellar in a rocky hillside a little north of the present village of Windham, and in that forlorn spot spent the long winter of 1688-9. That he had silver and gold remaining after so long an exile subsequent events fully proved; but miles and miles from a human habitation, it could at first have contributed little to their comfort. Game was abundant, however, and the faithful Joe ever on the alert; so the winter wore away in safety and spring dawned happily for the colonies and thrice happily for the exiles. The vindictive monarch had been deposed and William and Mary were seated on the throne. The infamous Andross was driven from the country, and the royal offenders could now emerge from their rocks and caves and breathe in comparative security.

The proprietors of the tract that had afforded an asylum for the English exile began to take measures for its immediate settlement. Cates came forth from his hiding place, purchased land, and with his servant built the first house in the nameless township. Already advanced in life, with a constitution impaired by hardship and privation, he lived for several years to be the firm ally and prudent counsellor of the youthful settlement. His name is often seen in the early records of the town, and the interests of education and religion lay near his heart. The first minister, Reverend Samuel Whiting, became his warm friend, but not even to him nor to his trusty housekeeper was his identity ever revealed. Only occasional allusions to his past fell from his lips, and he died as he lived, unknown.

To the church, of which he was one of the earliest members, he bequeathed a service of plate and two hundred acres of land in trust for the poor. He also gave two hundred acres as a permanent school fund to his adopted town. To his friend, Mr. Whiting, he gave a bed, a chest and his wearing apparel, also the trusty servant who had been the companion of his dreary solitude. That he had been a kind master the inconsolable grief of Joe fully attested, and the poor fellow did not long survive

him. Both were buried near the place of their first concealment, and a rough stone, rudely initialed, marked for a time the spot. When the first cemetery was laid out the body of Cates was removed thither and a stone, ample for the times, bore the following inscription :

IN
 MEMORY OF
 MR. JOHN CATES.
 HE WAS A GENTLEMAN BORN
 IN ENGLAND,
 AND THE FIRST SETTLER IN THE
 TOWN OF WINDHAM.
 BY HIS LAST
 WILL AND TESTAMENT
 HE GAVE A
 GENEROUS LEGACY
 TO YE FIRST
 CHURCH OF CHRIST IN
 WINDHAM,
 IN PLATE AND A GENEROUS
 LEGACY IN LAND
 FOR YE SUPPORT OF YE POOR.
 AND ANOTHER
 LEGACY FOR YE SUPPORT
 OF YE SCHOOL
 IN SAID TOWN FOREVER.
 HE DIED
 IN WINDHAM
 JULY YE 16th, A. D.
 1697.

The stone is mossed with age, and it seems but just that the several towns, that for nearly two centuries have shared his munificent bequests, should now unite in the erection of a more lasting monument to the memory of their generous benefactor—the stranger and exile.

THE BATTLE OF THE FROGS.

“ The direst fray in all that war
 To shake King George’s crown,
 Was when the Bull-frogs marched at night
 Against old Windham Town.”

A few years since, while traveling in the Northwest I met a party of Eastern tourists at the Falls of St. Anthony. Among them was our honored historian, George Bancroft. After a pleasant introduction he exclaimed, “ *From Windham, Connecticut!* A Bullfrog!” “ Yes,” I said, “ I acknowledge the Frog! Here is

one perched on one of our bank notes. It is the Windham coat-of-arms;" and the note was handed round with much merriment. Most of the party were familiar with the story of the frogs, but for the amusement of those who were not, it was briefly repeated.

It was the summer of 1758, during the memorable French and Indian war, when bloody incursions were being made all along the northern boundary. Windham was then a frontier town, the most important in eastern Connecticut. Colonel Eliphalet Dyer, a prominent citizen and one for whom the enemy so loudly clamored, had just raised a regiment to join the expedition against Crown Point, and many of the bravest men of the town were already in the field with General Putnam, battling with the savages. Rumors of massacre and bloodshed were in the air, and doubt and apprehension had taken possession of every heart. No wonder the inhabitants were filled with alarm when, one dark, foggy night in July, they were aroused from midnight slumber by sounds such as no mortal had ever heard before. Parson White's negro, returning from a nocturnal carousal, appears to have been the first to hear the startling clamor. Rushing frantically to his master he exclaimed, "O Massa, Good Lordie Massa, don't you hear dem coming—de outlandish?"

Sure enough the parson heard and raised an alarm that brought from their beds as incongruous a mass of humanity as can well be imagined. Women and children shrieked and cried and ran hither and thither, adding to the general din and hubbub; while men armed themselves valiantly to meet the foe. The night was pitchy dark and the direction of the sounds not easy to determine. At first they seemed to fill the whole heavens, which led many to believe the day of judgment was at hand; but a wise old darkey declared "de *day* of judgment couldn't come in de *night*."

Distinct articulations were at length imagined, and there was no longer a doubt of their source. An army of French and Indians was at hand calling loudly for "Colonel Dyer and Elderkin too"—their prominent lawyers. Every man who had a gun, sword or pitchfork rushed up the eastern hill whence the clamor now seemed to proceed, but no foe was met and darkness covered all. "Borne through the hollow night," the dreadful sounds continued, while the dauntless pursuers, utterly confused and bewildered, stood with their arms awaiting the dawn. The so-

lution of the mystery was then made clear. A mile away to the east of the town was a marshy pond, the home of thousands of batrachians, large greenbackers and mottled little peepers, such as often make night hideous. A drought had reduced their pond to a narrow rill, and for this the poor thirsty creatures had fought and died like Greeks at the pass of Thermopylæ. Tradition says thousands of the dead frogs were found the next morning on both sides of the rill, and the terror-stricken Windhamites turned their prayers to praises for so gracious a deliverance.

The above is the simplest and we believe the only authentic account of the most wonderful, and at the same time the most ludicrous event in our early history. The occurrence certainly made old Windham famous, but it does not appear that the actors in the comedy very much enjoyed the merriment at their expense. The Windham wits had long been the terror of the county. Their practical jokes are traditional. The tables were fairly turned upon them now, and as the story flew, gathering increased strength in its flight, fresh outbursts of retaliatory fun were borne in upon them from every quarter. Rhyme and doggerel circulated freely, and ballads of the frog fight were sung both in high places and low. Even grave clergymen condescended to banter, and a letter from the Reverend Mr. Stiles of Woodstock to his nephew, a Windham lawyer, is still extant, in which the spirit of fun is manifest, while its puns are atrocious.

It is related that once, when Colonel Eliphalet Dyer was sent as a delegate to the first congress held in the city of New York, his arrival was greeted with shouts of laughter. Alighting from his carriage he found a big bull-frog dangling from the hinder part, hung there, presumably, by some wag *en route*. Whatever may have been *his* feelings at the time, the inhabitants of Windham have long since ceased to be sensitive in relation to the affair. The story is their own and they love it wherever it is told, and they love the old pond, with its fragrant lilies, which vandal hands are attempting to drain and destroy.

Of all the exaggerated accounts of the above, the most marvelous and untruthful is that of the Reverend Samuel Peters in his "General History of Connecticut," which President Dwight unhesitatingly called "a mass of folly and falsehood." He stated that "one night in July the frogs of an *artificial* pond *three*

miles square and *five miles* from Windham, finding the water dried up, left in a body and marched, or hopped, for the Willimantic river. Taking the road through the town which they entered at midnight, bull-frogs leading, pipers following without number, *they filled a road forty yards wide for four miles in length, and were several hours* in passing the town." This is a fair sample of the whole book, and proves its author a very Munchausen for veracity.

As we have stated before, the frog-fight was the theme of many ballads, some founded on Peters' narrative, others on a more truthful statement of facts. All are amusing relics of the times, and worthy of being preserved as curiosities of history as well as of literature. The following, believed to be the most ancient, is said to have been composed by a youthful son of Lebanon, who was undoubtedly glad to have a hit at his rival townsmen, and Windham's numerous lawyers. It bore the following lengthy title:

"A true relation of a strange battle between some Lawyers and Bull-frogs, set forth in a new song, written by a jolly farmer of New England."

LAWYERS AND BULL-FROGS.

- " Good people all, both great and small,
Of every occupation,
I pray draw near and lend an ear
To this our true relation.
- " 'Twas of a fright, happened one night,
Caused by the bull-frog nation,
As strange an one as ever was known
In all our generation.
- " The frogs, we hear, in bull-frog shire
Their chorister had buried;
The saddest loss and greatest cross
That ever they endured.
- " Thus being deprived, they soon contrived
Their friends to send to greeting,
Even to all, both great and small,
To hold a general meeting.
- " Subject and lord, with one accord,
Now came with bowels yearning,
For to supply and qualify,
And fit a frog for learning.
- " For to supply immediately
The place of their deceased;
There did they find one to their mind,
Which soon their sorrow eased.

- “ This being done, the glorious sun
Going down, and night advancing,
With great delight they spent the night
In music and in dancing.
- “ And when they sung, the air it rung,
And when they broke in laughter,
It did surprise both learned and wise,
As you shall find hereafter.
- “ A negro man, we understand,
Awoke and heard the shouting.
He ne’er went abroad, but awaked his lord
Which filled their hearts with doubting.
- “ They then did rise, with great surprise,
And raised the town or city,
Although before unto the poor
They never would show pity.
- “ With one accord they went abroad,
And stood awhile to wonder,
The bull-frog shout appears, no doubt,
To them like claps of thunder.
- “ Which made them say the judgment day,
Without a doubt was coming,
For in the air, they did declare,
Was very awful drumming.
- “ Those lawyers’ fees would give no ease,
Though well they’re worth inditing;
To pray they kneel—alas! they feel
The worm of conscience biting.
- “ Being thus dismayed, one of them said,
He would make restitution;
He would restore one-half or more—
This was his resolution.
- “ Another’s heart was pricked in part,
But not touched to the center,
Rather than pay one-half away,
His soul, he said, he’d venture.
- “ Then they agreed to go with speed
And see what was the matter;
And, as they say, that by the way,
Repenting tears did scatter.
- “ They traveled still unto the hill
With those men they did rally,
Then soon they found the doleful sound
To come out of the valley.

- “ Then down they went with one consent,
And found those frogs a-singing,
Raising their voice for to rejoice,
This was the doleful ringing.
- “ Home those great men returned then
Now filled with wrath and malice,
And mustered all, both great and small,
From prison and from palace.
- “ Swearing, I say, thus in array,
To be revenged upon them;
Thinking it best, I do protest,
To go and fall upon them.
- “ Then armed all, both great and small,
With guns and swords and hatchets.
An Indian king could never bring
An army that would match it.
- “ Old Stoughton ran and charged up his gun
And flourished his sword in the air,
But not being stout he at last gave out
And fell on his knees to prayer.
- “ Then armed with fury, both judge and jury,
Unto the frog pond moved;
And, as they say, a fatal day
Unto the frogs it proved.
- “ This terrible night the parson did fright
His people almost to despair,
For poor Windham souls among the bean poles
He made a most wonderful prayer.
- “ Lawyer Lucifer called up his crew,—
‘ Dyer and Elderkin you must come too.’
Old Colonel Dyer you know well enough
He had an old negro, his name was Cuff.
- “ ‘ Now, massa,’ says Cuff, ‘ I’m now glad enough
For what little comfort I have,
I make it no doubt my time is just out,
No longer shall I be a slave.’
- “ As for Larabie, so guilty was he,
He durst not step out of his house;
The poor guilty soul crept into his hole,
And there lay as still as a mouse.
- “ As for Jemmy Flint he began to repent
For a bible he never had known,
His life was so bad, he’d give half he had
To old Father Stoughton for one.

“ Those armed men they killed them,
And scalped about two hundred,
Taking, I say, their lives away,
And then their camp they plundered.

“ Those lusty frogs they fought like dogs,
For which I do commend them,
But lost the day, for want, I say,
Of weapons to defend them.

“ Home those great men returned then
Unto the town with fury,
And swore those frogs were saucy dogs,
Before both judge and jury.

“ I had this story before me
Just as I have writ it,
It being so new, so strange and true,
I could not well omit it.

“ Lawyers, I say, now from this day
Be honest in your dealing,
And never more increase your store
While you the poor are killing.

“ For if you do, I'll have you know,
Conscience again will smite you,
The bull-frog shout will ne'er give out
But rise again and fight you.

“ Now Lawyers, Parsons, Bull-frogs, all,
I bid you each farewell;
And unto you I loudly call
A better tale to tell.”

REVOLUTIONARY ANECDOTES.

Old Windham was like a bottle of champagne, ever ready to burst forth on occasion. Opportunities to show her spirit were not wanting in the eventful years preceding the revolution. News of the stamp act created a general fermentation, and when it was ascertained that one of her own citizens had accepted the appointment of deputy stamp master, he was waited upon without delay and forced to surrender his letter and make a solemn promise to decline the office. Nor was this enough. The boys were overflowing with patriotism, and no doubt liked a little fun withal; so as an example and warning it was determined to hang and burn their culprit in effigy. Word was dispatched to all the neighboring parishes, and over the Scotland hills, down the Mansfield road and up the Norwich pike came throngs of the faithful to join in the popular demonstration.

A gallows was erected on Windham Green, on which the unfortunate offender was suspended, and afterward taken down and burned with loud acclamations.

This was only an introductory performance. Finding that the governor of the colony had determined to enforce the orders of the king, a band of five hundred horsemen from Windham and New London counties, with several days' provisions in their saddle-bags, and armed with such weapons as were within their reach, sallied forth to intercept the newly appointed stamp master on his way to Hartford. Putnam is said to have been the inciter of the movement, but being too ill at the time to accompany the expedition, the command was given to Captain John Durkee, a brave son of Hampton, or what was then Canada Parish.

The cavalcade met Ingersol before he reached the city, and forced him, *vi et armis*, to sign a resignation prepared for him beforehand, and return to his legitimate business. A few days later General Putnam waited upon the governor in person, and assured him that if he made any further attempt to force the stamps upon the colony his house would be leveled with the dust in five minutes.

To show how this insult to the people's rights had taken possession of the popular feeling, and what satisfaction was felt at the repeal of the odious act, the quaint expression of Jonas Manning may be cited. Manning was a famous stone-cutter and epitaph writer, and the labor of his hands and brain may still be seen in all of our rural cemeteries. His residence was in the south part of the town, and inserted in the wall, over the front door, was a heavy stone slab, on which the following lines were chiseled :

“ Liberty, Property, restored again
In George ye III^{ds} most gracious reign;
Now Liberty, Property and no excise,
God bless our Kings and keep them wise.

“ JONAS MANNING 1766.”

The lines were copied from the tablet many years ago. The old house has since been burned and the historic stone was reduced to fragments by the fire, otherwise it might have stood as a lasting memorial of the times in the archives of the state, the Historical Society of Hartford having made overtures for its purchase.

The aggressive patriotism of the Windhamites was manifested

again in their summary dealing with the Reverend Samuel Peters, of Hebron, who forbade his parishioners taking up arms in the cause of Liberty, on that memorable Sabbath when the whole country was aroused by the news that powder, stored in Cambridge, had been removed to Boston by order of General Gage.

This tory divine had long been suspected of sending information abroad, as well as to the resident colonial governors and agents. The resolutions of the colonists were satirized and ridiculed, while he stigmatized them as traitors. Windham was his especial target. In a series of insulting "Resolves" he says: "Bostonians would be able to support their own poor after *Windham* and other towns have paid their legal demands." And again, "We cannot find any good reasons why the good people of *Windham* undertook to arraign and condemn Governor Hutchinson and others for ignorance, insult and treason against law and common sense only for differing in sentiment with some of their neighbors, since there were a few names in Sardis," etc., and he recommends a day of fasting and prayer "that the sins of *this haughty people* may not be laid to our charge as a Government," etc.

Such insolent insinuations were not suited to the Windham taste. A committee of five of their leading men was detailed to visit and deal with their reverend antagonist. Miss Larned, in her very interesting history, gives a graphic account of this visit, from which we make extracts:

"On Tuesday Sep. 6th the Committee, accompanied by some hundred of their fellow citizens from the surrounding country, proceeded to his house in Hebron, which they found barricaded and filled with people, said to be armed. A deputation was sent in to inform Mr. Peters of their determination to obtain retraction and satisfaction for his late conduct. A parley was held through the window. Mr. Peters attempted to justify himself, and said he had no arms except two old guns out of repair. They replied they did not care to dispute with him, and advised him to address the people who thronged about the house, etc. Putting on his white priestly robe, he came out with all his official dignity and proceeded to plead his cause, when the discharge of a gun within the house startled his hearers. The indignant patriots proceeded at once to tear down the barricades, and rushing in, found loaded guns and pistols, swords and heavy clubs, thus

putting the lie to his assertion. Notwithstanding this discovery he was allowed to proceed with his harangue and retire unmolested, with the understanding that he should draw up and sign a satisfactory declaration. Peters delayed, equivocated and quibbled until the waiting crowd lost all patience and proceeded to deal with him in a more summary manner. Forcing their way into the house again, they seized the struggling divine, tearing his sacred Episcopal gown, and putting him on a cart he was hauled by his own oxen to the meeting house green, where they sat him upon the public horse block and compelled him to sign a declaration and humble confession, framed by the committee, to the intent that he repented of his past misdeeds and would give them no further cause for complaint. He was then made to read this paper aloud, sentence by sentence, to the great crowd surrounding the horse block, which thereupon gave three triumphal cheers and quietly dispersed."

In reporting this affair Peters, with his customary veracity, declared, "The Sons of Liberty destroyed his windows, rent his clothes, even his gown, almost killed one of his church people, tarred and feathered two, and abused others."

A few days after he retired to Boston, and sailed for England in November. Miss Larned very justly adds "that the rancor of his subsequent letters is the best apology for his assailants." These letters, full of spite and malignity, were brought back from Boston by two of Peters' friends who accompanied him thither. A party of patriots met them at a tavern, and suspecting they had communications from Peters, questioned them, but allowed them to proceed on their way. It appears they were not yet beyond surveillance. A man hidden behind a fence overheard them say "they might be searched before they reached home and get into trouble and therefore had better hide their letters." He watched them and saw them alight near a stone fence, then remount and hurry onward. The letters were found in the wall, the men pursued and brought back. They denied having letters and offered to declare it upon oath, but when the documents were shown they were obliged to own the bringing and hiding of them. The town in which this occurred was red hot old Windham and her ardent citizens were the detectives and punishers of the unfortunate wayfarers.

The story of the capture of "*Peters' spies*" was quickly noised abroad, and young and old, men, women and children hurried

to the scene of action. Alarmed for their safety the convicted tale-bearers begged for mercy, but public sentiment demanded their punishment. The victims were allowed the choice of running the gauntlet or of being whipped at the public whipping post. Finding there was no help for them, they decided on the former, much to the delight of the spectators who could all have a hand in the infliction. After the Indian manner, two opposing lines were formed stretching all the way across the village green from the tavern to the meeting house. The two men were forced to run between them receiving from the enraged populace kicks, cuffs, pokes and insulting epithets to the end of the line.

This story of "Peters' spies" and their punishment by the Windham boys and some of the girls, if we may believe the tradition, was an especial favorite with the revolutionary veterans, who added much wit and drollery to their narration. The letters in question were to his mother, a resident of Hebron, and to Doctor Auchmuty of New York. In them he affirmed that six regiments with sundry men of war were on their way from England, and as soon as they came *hanging-work* would go on; destruction would first attend the seaport towns, etc. To the doctor he added that the clergy of Connecticut with their churches must fall a sacrifice to the rage of the Puritan nobility if the old serpent, that dragon, is not bound. With much else he adds: "Their rebellion is obvious; treason is common and robbery their daily devotion." Were the reverend gentleman living at present the descendants of those same doughty Puritans would undoubtedly make him chaplain of the Annanias Club.

THAT LITTLE GOD BACCHUS.

Travelers on the old stage route from Providence to Hartford cannot fail to remember a quaint little figure perched on the outstretched arm of a great elm that stood directly in front of the Staniford House. The figure represented the jolly god Bacchus, nude and chubby, sitting astride a cask and holding in his arms before him a basket of fruit, grapes, lemons, peaches and pears, all colored so naturally as to tempt the youthful passer-by.

The image had a saucy look. There were great dimples in his chin and cheeks, a roguish laugh in his shining black eyes and on his parted lips. Grape leaves and clusters of grapes en-

circled his head. His naked body had the look of flesh, and he sat astride his red cask with an air of festive enjoyment. This strange figure had a most singular history. On the 10th of June, 1776, the Americans captured in Long Island sound the British ship "Bombrig," Captain Sneyd, of the royal navy, with all her officers and crew. Four of the prisoners, including the captain, were brought to Windham and lodged in the old jail, where they remained for several months. Their names were Edward Sneyd, commander; John Coggin, boatswain; John Russel, ship's carpenter, and William Cook, seaman. The fate of their fellow prisoners is unknown. The widow Carey, afterward Mrs. John Fitch, was at that time landlady of the inn adjoining the jail, and her kindness to the prisoners warmed their hearts with gratitude and incited them to the only return in their power, the carving of a wooden image for a keepsake. The subject was well chosen for those times when conviviality and good cheer were supposed to be the special attractions of a country tavern. Russel, the carpenter, was undoubtedly the suggester and master workman, as he had served an English apprenticeship and understood the carving of figure-heads as well as the fashioning of masts. In some way they got possession of a huge pine log, and with no other implements than their jack knives, they assailed it as the sculptor assails the block of marble to bring out the hidden image it conceals. Many days of wearisome captivity were thus beguiled and brightened by this labor of love; but little could they have dreamed that they were thus transmitting their own names and history to future generations.

In due time the work was completed and presented to their kind benefactress, who placed it as a sign in front of her hotel, where it remained until her marriage with Mr. John Fitch, when it was removed to the old Fitch tavern. The heirs of Mr. Fitch are said to have sold it to the landlord of the Staniford House, by whom it was placed on the outstretched arm of his great elm to smile a welcome to coming guests. For a quarter of a century it enjoyed this lofty elevation, when a storm, more fierce than had ever before assailed it, hurled poor Bacchus to the ground. One arm was broken, but with the other he clung firmly to his basket of fruit.

For some time the pretty wine god had been frowned upon by some of the straiter of the modern moralists as an emblem of license, rather than of hospitality; so with the temperance

movement, bruised and sore, the innocent little fellow, like Dickens' poor Joe, was forced to "move on," and for three years lay in the vile obscurity of a wood house. But better days were dawning. A true son of Windham discovered his retreat at last, and for a paltry sum became possessed of one of the finest historical relics of the revolution.

After surgical treatment and a fresh coat of paint Bacchus was taken to New York for exhibition, and old friends who chanced to see it were surprised to behold there the pet of their childhood. In 1872 it was removed to Hartford and placed in the window of A. E. Brooks, where it still remains, gazing roguishly out on the passers-by and telling its wonderful tale of the past to the thoughtful inquirer.

Many anecdotes are related of it. While on its way to Hartford a lady in the car saw it and was filled with indignation that a monstrosity should be allowed to travel thus. Her wrath was only appeased when the history of the singular traveler was explained and comprehended.

An old lady, leaning on a cane, was walking slowly up the street in Hartford when she came to a sudden standstill at sight of the well remembered image. "Why! if there isn't Bacchus," she was heard to exclaim. "I haven't seen him for years and years!" and she went on murmuring "for so many, many years." What memories of childhood that figure evoked.

Before closing this brief sketch it may be of interest to the reader to know the fate of those British prisoners who wrought under so many discouragements so lasting a mark. Their story was published in the *New London Gazette* of November 29th, 1776. By some means the four men had managed to escape from jail and make their way to Norwich, hoping to reach Long Island and regain the British army.

The *Gazette* says: "Tuesday night last, one John Coggin, late boatswain of the 'Bombrig,' who, with the three other prisoners broke out of Windham jail, was found on board a brig in this harbor. He gives the following account of said prisoners, viz.: That the night after breaking out of jail they, with one Lewis, who was taken in a prize vessel captured in New York harbor by a party under Captain Nathan Hale, stole a canoe near Norwich Landing, in which they attempted to cross the sound to Long Island, but at the entrance of the Race near Gull Island the canoe upset, when all of them except Coggin were drowned."

Coggins' story is probably true, as nothing was ever heard of the men afterward, although Captain Sneyd was an officer of ability and high rank in the British navy.

Heartfelt sorrow for the fate of the gentle mannered men whom the fortune of war had placed in their midst for a season was undoubtedly felt by many a good Windhamite who read the above; and the token of their gratitude, wrought with such skill and patient care, was the pride, not only of its fair recipient, but of the whole town. No one lives now who looked upon it then. Children and children's children have passed away, old animosities are forgotten; a New World has sprung from the wilderness with more than a century of growth and unparalleled prosperity, but that little image remains as a link to the past. Were it mine I should write upon it the names of the four prisoners and "Sacred to memory."

THE HOUSE THE WOMEN RAISED.

The women of the American revolution were worthy of being the wives and daughters of brave men. Strong and courageous, they were not only the inciters to patriotism, but most ardent workers in its cause. They accepted privation and sacrifice as a pleasure, and took up the burdens imposed on them with a cheerfulness that made them light. It has often been stated that at one period during the war not an able bodied man was left in Canada parish. The women planted and harvested, then had their merry huskings; pulled the flax and hatched it, and had their spinning bees; thus aiding and encouraging one another while keeping the wolf from the door. These same women were undoubtedly the first celebrators of the declaration of American independence, not with cannon and drum beat, but in a much more novel manner.

Only the parish minister, well advanced in years, an old doctor, and a one-legged carpenter, represented the adult manhood of the place; all were in the army. One of these men who left with the first volunteers had been collecting lumber preparatory to the erection of a new tenement. As months passed and he did not return, it occurred to his wife to set the lame carpenter to work and have the frame ready against his coming. When this was done and still the army claimed its soldiers, another idea was suggested—a proposition to the women to have a merry-making on the 4th of July, and with the instructions of

the carpenter, *to raise the house*. Never did proposal meet a heartier response, and on the morning designated, the young girls and strong-handed women were assembling from every quarter of the town, ready for service. Before nightfall a frame, two stories and ample, was ready for covering, the carpenter insisting that never before in his experience had a building gone up so smoothly.

A few years since, when the good people of Hampton were celebrating the 4th of July, a patriotic address was made by the late Governor Cleveland, in which he told the story of the house the women raised and the names of the parties interested. At the close of the exercises a procession was formed and marched to the spot, where three hearty cheers were given to the brave women who celebrated the 4th of July for the first time in so remarkable a manner, and who left behind them a monument of strength and courage, we venture to say, unparalleled in history.

THE BLACK SHEEP.

“ Baa ! Baa ! Black sheep,
Have you got any wool ? ”

Some one of our colonial ancestors brought over from the Old World a heraldic bear with a crown on its head, and called it the family coat-of-arms. It became obsolete with our independence. Were we to choose another, it would be a black sheep.

Historic mention has often been made of the *seventeen cousins* from one school district in the second society of Windham who enlisted in the revolutionary army, and of their noble record. In that cold winter of 1777-8, a regiment of the continental troops was ordered from Rhode Island to New Jersey. The line of march lay through Connecticut, only a few miles south of the home of these cousins, the survivors of whom were scattered far and wide in the ranks of the patriot army.

One of these, a mere youth, who had already seen more than a year of hard service, was a member of the regiment which was making its way to New London. So near his home, he felt a great desire to see his mother and friends, and at his request his kind captain gave him permission to turn aside for a single night. The February snow was falling thickly when he reached the homestead, and the ragged soldier, powdered and white, was not at first recognized. His aged grandmother was dozing

in the corner arm chair, with her knitting work in her lap; his mother, who had been busy at her loom, left it to question the new comer of news from the army; while his young sister was stirring a pot of bean soup for the family dinner. The poor boy was too much overcome at first to speak, but a moment after was weeping in his mother's arms—weeping, not for himself, but for the darling son and brother who went forth with him to return no more. Poor Willie had fallen in the woods of Maine in that terrible march of Arnold to Quebec.

It was long before the old grandmother would be satisfied that the poor, ragged, famished-looking youth was their own sturdy boy, her especial pet and favorite; but when convinced of his identity, her knitting needles clicked louder than usual, while tears streamed down her furrowed cheeks. "I knew poor Willie would never stand soldiering," she said after awhile, "but Jimmie was stouter—built just like his grandfather. He has come home all skin and bones."

"Not quite, Granny dear," he said, turning and caressing her in his old way; "you just see me eat now!"

His sister had just placed before him a bowl of warm soup, which he devoured eagerly, while his mother unbound the rags from his travel-sore feet and washed them, then drew on a pair of warm socks and a pair of his father's half-worn shoes—better than he had seen for months. The clothing they sent him in autumn never reached him, and the government had done nothing for its soldiers that winter, except to furnish a scanty supply of blankets.

"Never mind, Jimmie," his sister said, cheerfully, "we can make you another suit before you go. We have just commenced the summer cloth."

"I have to leave in the morning," he replied, rather sadly. "My regiment broke camp yesterday, and is on its way to New Jersey to be ready for some early movement. My orders are to be in New London to-morrow night."

What a damper his words cast over their joy! Only one night, and what could they do for him in that brief period? There was not a yard of cloth in the house, except a few yards of white flannel which had been sent to the mill in autumn and returned undressed, as the clothier had gone to the army. There was not a yard in the neighborhood, nor an inch for sale in the market. What could they do? A bright thought flashed through the

young girl's mind. Her little brother had just come in from the barn, and was sitting on Jimmie's knee. She whispered something in his ear, and he was off in a moment.

"Do you remember Dido, Jimmie?" she asked her brother.

"You'd better believe I remember her," he said. "Whatever became of the ugly imp?"

"She is alive and well, and has turned patriot."

Dido was a black cosset, given to Hettie by one of the royalists, who left the country at the commencement of the war, and was as vicious a creature as could be imagined. Not another sheep on the farm would eat at the same rack with her, and she had to be confined in the winter in a solitary outhouse. Before her brothers left home they advised their sister playfully "to tie the king's documents around the critter's neck and make a colonial messenger of her, or else send her to England with the other black sheep."

Nevertheless, Dido had been tenderly cared for by her young mistress, to whom she was uniformly gentle and docile. The little brother's orders were to lead the cosset into the cellar—not an easy task, for while he slip-noosed a cord around her neck she stamped at him, butted him with her hard head, and tried to bite his knees; but the boy's will was as strong as her own and she was pulled into the cellar. Hettie was there before them with a large pair of shears in her hand.

"Now, Dido," she said, "you have never made any sacrifice for your country, but you must do so now. Lie down, my pet, and give me your coat!"

At a wave of her hand the creature obeyed, and caressing her, Nettie began to shear the long, coarse wool from her back.

"Take this to grandma, Eben, and ask her to card it before I come up. And then you run as fast as you can to Aunt Remember's, and ask her and Cousin Sallie to come here right away, and help get Jimmie off in the morning. They'll want to see him and hear from the army."

It did not take Hettie long to shear the wool from Dido's body and sew around it a warm blanket. Then she hastened up the stairs with her burden, which was laid at her grandmother's feet. The great wheel was next brought nearer the fire, and the rolls, already carded, laid beside it.

"How glad I am you finished weaving in that web this morning, mother!" she said, gaily. "We can now send Jim away

with a new suit of linsey-woolsey black as Dido. It will at least look better than a white flannel one at this season of the year."

"Is the gal crazy?" asked the old grandmother, resting for a moment on her cards.

"Crazy with joy, then! Your rolls run beautifully, grandma; warm from the sheep, you know. Jimmie, can't you *quill*?"

A hearty laugh, the first they had heard from the young soldier, did their hearts good. Hettie's tongue buzzed as fast as her wheel. As soon as she had spun enough for a single quill, she called on her mother to wind it, fill her shuttle, and begin the fabric. Never had they wrought more cheerfully; there was no time to think of the morrow. Cousin Sally and her mother soon joined them, and another pair of cards and another wheel helped on the work. The carding and spinning were finished at nightfall, and the evening was not spent when the fabric was cut from the loom. Aunt Remember was a tailoress, and while the supper was preparing she measured Jimmie for the round jacket and loose trousers, which she said could easily be made before morning.

A pleasant night they made of it while the storm wind whistled without. The boys cracked nuts and Jimmie told camp stories until after midnight, when the two were sent to bed in their mother's room, which opened from the warm kitchen. Early the next morning she stole softly in and awoke little Eben, that he might feed old Dolly and make ready for departure, as he was to accompany his brother on his way. Jimmie appeared at the breakfast table in his new suit, and laughingly promised his sister that Dido should have a pension at the close of the war if she was living.

When the sword of Cornwallis was placed in the hands of their beloved commander-in-chief, that broken band of cousins, with their surviving comrades, came marching home. There was a wedding at the old homestead not long after, and when Hettie left her father's house for a new home of her own, proudly in the train that accompanied her was led the old cosset, with one of her lambs as black as herself at her side. For more than a century the story of Dido and that linsey-woolsey suit has been an heirloom. The children and children's children have heard it, and from that day to this a black sheep has been the family pet and pride.

A CHARACTER.

Every town has its—I will not say vagabonds, but easy-go-lucky fellows, who flourish, like dodder, with no root in the ground. Some years ago Scotland parish had one of this sort, who got his living by fishing, hunting, and occasionally hooping a tub or cask. It entered his odd head at last that a help-meet would be in order, and he applied to one of the good farmers of the neighborhood for the hand of one of his daughters.

“What!” said the old gentleman, in astonishment. “*You, Daniel, want a wife? What on earth could you do with one?*”

“Why,” returned the young man, straightening up to his full six feet, “I can *almost* support myself, and it’s a darned poor woman who couldn’t help a little.”

The farmer did not see it so, but it seems the daughter did, and in spite of opposition she became Mrs. Daniel ———. For years they obtained a precarious livelihood, the “*woman helping a little*” by tending a turnpike gate. But turnpike gates became obsolete with the march of improvements, and Daniel became rheumatic and was no longer able to haunt the streams and woods; then the town became their almoner.

Some time after her husband’s death a small legacy fell to the widow, when it was suggested by a relative that it would be a good time to procure a stone to mark his grave. The old lady looked serious for a moment, as if considering the matter, then replied: “Wal, now, I reckon if the Lord wants Daniel in the day of judgment *He can find him without a guideboard!*”

When the old lady came to her death-bed she was visited by a minister, who, with other inquiries, asked her *if she had made her peace with God*. She looked astonished, and after a little replied: “I don’t remember as the Lord and I ever had any difficulty.”

TEA-TOTAL.

“The women took the matter up
And said, ‘We do agree
To plant our gardens green with sage,
And drink it all, ’ere we
Will taste the Tory tea!
The barley malteth in the sun,
The raspberry leaves are free,
And we will teach the little ones
To glean industriously,
And tell them Liberty
Is sweeter far than tea.’

“ And boys went whistling through the street,
‘ Oh, not a fig care we
For England’s herb-drink—bitter-sweet !
Hurrah for Liberty !
We drink no Tory tea !’
Brave lads they were; and when the strife
In earnest was begun,
They dropped the school-book for a fife,
Or took a rusty gun—
Still shouting valiantly,
‘ We’ll drink no Tory tea !’

“ But England sent the tea along,
Though men of all degree
Protested loud against the wrong,
And said, ‘ We’ve no idee
Of paying tax on tea !’
And Boston men did more, for when
The ships at anchor lay
Three hundred chests of tea were steeped
In Massachusetts Bay.
But who went out to tea
Was not so plain to see.”*

The passage of the Boston port bill gave Windham a new dragon to fight, and men, women and children were ready for action. For years *tea* had been the *bête noir* of their special antagonism. No one was permitted to bring it into the town, or even to taste a drop of the “detested weed,” under penalty of seeing his name gazetted as an enemy to his country, or at the risk of a coat of tar and feathers. The venerable Doctor Cogswell and lady, of Scotland parish, greatly offended his parishioners by indulging in the prohibited beverage after returning from the burial of a beloved daughter, whose sudden illness and death had nearly prostrated them. The transgression was made public and the reverend gentleman informed that the offense would be reported to the committee of inspection. Greatly agitated, he went at once to that body and informed them that the tea had been taken by advice of a physician, and they promised to waive proceedings. But his parishioners were not so easily satisfied. “Better to die,” they said, “than to be guilty of so evil an example!” And many worthy members refrained from church-going unless their minister would make a public confession from the pulpit; and their action was commended by a majority of the citizens of the neighboring parishes.

* Extract from an old poem by a Windham lady.

Nothing delighted the Windhamites so much as the tidings of the destruction of those ship-loads of tea in Boston harbor, and nothing since the passage of the stamp act had aroused their indignation to such a pitch as the closing of the harbor in consequence. The news reached Windham on Saturday, and before night handbills were posted all over the town. Mr. White took the subject into the pulpit the next day, and made a most earnest appeal for their brave suffering brethren, exhorting his listeners to concert some speedy measure for carrying aid to the beleaguered city. There was no need of such exhortation, for already had the citizens resolved in their minds what they could best spare from their own necessities.

A town meeting was called at once, and there was a grand rally from every section of the town. The old meeting house was crowded to its utmost capacity, women and children filling the galleries. Solomon Huntington was moderator, and soon announced that *two hundred and fifty-eight sheep* were contributed and ready for delivery. A number of the young men volunteered to go with their offering, and remain to fight if needed.

Mr. Bancroft, in his "History of the American Revolution," makes very honorable mention of this Windham donation—the first from Connecticut, and the earliest save one from any of the American colonies.

DOCTOR COGSWELL AND PHYLLIS.

Many anecdotes are told of Doctor Cogswell and his two old negro servants, Ambrose and Phyllis. Phyllis, when young, was brought from Africa, and it was the theme of her life-long thoughts and conversation. She was very fond of the kitchen garden, and laid by every variety of seed against the day of her death, when she fully believed she should return to her beloved Africa, bearing with her germs to make the desert fruitful. Poor old slave! Toiling and easing her heavy burden with the blessed balm of Hope, which never yet has quite forsaken the wretched. May we not believe the poor slave's eyes have, ere this, opened to scenes familiar, that she has sat in the shadows of the palms, and tasted the cocoa milk, so sweet to her earthly childhood, in the home so often regretted and longed for in the dark years that succeeded? Surely the All-wise will suit the future of his poor creatures to their earnest longings, so that no shadow of disappointment will await the "ten thousand

times ten thousand," whether their hopes stretch forward to the "land of pure delight" of the Christian or the "happy hunting grounds" of the savage.

Old Ambrose was allowed a small patch of ground to till for his own personal benefit, after the custom of master and slave. A remarkably fine turnip crop was the result of one season's sowing, of which he was very proud. One day on going to his patch he discovered a number of vacancies, and shrewdly suspected his missing vegetables had found their way to the parson's table. A passer-by overheard the darkey venting his indignation in this sort: "*Very religiss, he is! Steal a nigger's turnips! Dem'd religiss!*" And the story was not long in getting circulated.

The doctor became very forgetful in his later years, often omitting the notices for the week. On one occasion he forgot to mention the lecture preparatory for the sacrament on the coming Sabbath. Good old Deacon Kingsley, who, like most of the men of his time, made great account of "training days," arose in his seat and said: "*I guess Mr. Cogswell has forgot that next Sabba' day is the first Monday in May.*"

AN OLD FAMILY OF SCOTLAND.

One of the most distinguished families of the ancient township of Windham was that of Nathaniel Huntington, an early settler of Scotland parish. It consisted of six sons and three daughters. Their home, a fine old mansion with broad front and sloping roof, after the fashion of the time, is still standing, with green lawn before it, a few rods west of Merrick's brook. It was the favorite gathering place of the young people of the parish, who were drawn thither in part by the attraction of music, for which the family was famed, and for the wit and good cheer which always abounded. Three of the sons were graduates of Yale, and two of the others became even more distinguished than the collegians. The second son, Samuel, left a name to live in history. His father intended him for a mechanic, and he was apprenticed to a neighboring cooper, but a little circumstance brought out the spirit of the boy, who, it seems, "was father to the man." His elder brother was fitted for Yale, and left home one bright autumn morning clad in broadcloth and fine linen. Sam was sent to the barn to hatchel flax. Going thither some time after to see how the work progressed, his father found him

stripped to the waistband, while his homespun shirt was passing vigorously through the iron teeth of the hatchel.

"What are you doing there, boy?" his father demanded sternly. "Trying to make *my* shirt as soft as my brother's," he replied unflinchingly, never for a moment pausing from his work. Beating his shirt did not, however, clothe him in Holland or send him to Yale. He was duly apprenticed and must hoop tubs until he attained his majority, but his mind refused to be bound. Every spare moment was devoted to such books as came within his reach, and at twenty-one he had more knowledge in his head than many college graduates. He taught himself Latin, and began the study of law in direct opposition to his father's plans and wishes. But the father of his young playmate and sweetheart, Martha Devotion, is said to have encouraged him to persevere in spite of obstacles, discerning qualities in the young man that fitted him for a model statesman. Nor was this confidence in his abilities misplaced. Others were not long in discovering his fearless independence, his wise judgment and his great purity and integrity of character. The best offices in the gift of the people were conferred upon him. He was made member of the assembly, associate judge of the superior court of Connecticut and delegate to congress. Not long after his name was enrolled with that immortal band "whose names," in the language of our best historian, "will be household words as long as the principles of 1776 shall survive in the hearts of the people."

Nor were these his only honors. In September, 1779, congress elected him their leader and president, an office calling for the highest wisdom of the jurist and the statesman. After his return to his home in Norwich, to recruit his exhausted strength, he was appointed chief justice of his native state, and later was made its chief magistrate, an office he held for *ten years*, until the time of his death, 1796.

His father did not survive to read his *cooper boy's* name among the signers of the declaration of independence, or to see him elected to the highest offices of his state and nation; but he lived long enough to see him honored among men—the friend of Washington, Jefferson, and others of that illustrious band of patriots whose names and fame will not die, and without doubt to regret the stern parental misjudgment that bound his proud son for so many years to an uncongenial trade.

Four of the Huntington brothers were in the ministry, and honored their calling. One of these was a celebrated musician, who composed for the singers of his native parish the popular *fugue*, "Scotland's burning," which has been sung the world over, like John Howard Paine's "Home, sweet home." Music appears to have been a family gift, descending to the next generation. Jonathan, son of Eliphalet, the youngest but one of the six brothers, possessed a voice of remarkable power and sweetness. He made music his profession, and taught it with great success in Boston, Albany and St. Louis, where he died.

The old people used to tell of a quilting frolic at the family mansion in Scotland, where all the belles of the town were assembled, and where the beaux were expected to join in the festal games and dances of the evening. The sideboard had to be replenished, and a member of the family went to one of the village inns for that purpose. There was a little too much *sampling* of the liquors, perhaps, and when the young man returned and was about to enter the room where the young ladies were assembled, he stumbled at the door sill and fell headlong. His wit did not forsake him, however, for quick as thought he called out, in the very tone of their choir leader, "*Sing Old Hundred, ladies; I have given you the pitch.*"

But those were days of hilarity, when even the clergy thought it no sin to drink their flip and crack a harmless joke, always provided they held firmly to the "Saybrook Platform" and gave dissenters no countenance.

THE STORY OF MICAH ROOD.

A stranger turning over the musty archives of one of our county towns, some years ago, came across the following record: "Nov. 16, 1760.—*Micah Rood died AWFULLY.*"

"How did he die?" was the question propounded to the town clerk, who could not tell, as he was a new comer and had never heard of the circumstance before.

The stranger's curiosity was piqued. "*Died awfully*" kept ringing in his mind until another question suggested itself: "Have you any very aged persons in the place?"

The clerk spoke of two, one a revolutionary veteran, very deaf, and an aged widow, who remembered away back into colony times, and could tell stories forever without stopping. This last seemed the very person he wanted, and he inquired where he

could find her, and was directed to her residence, a mile or two away on the Providence pike.

The place was readily found, and after introducing himself the stranger made known his errand.

"Have I ever hearn tell how Mike Rood died?" Why, man alive, I remember all about it myself the same as though 'twas yesterday, though I warn't no bigger when it happened than this great-grandchild of mine here is now. It had ben kinder snowin' and rainin' all day, and father had ben to town, and when he got back he said with a shiver, 'There's the awfullest thing happened you ever heerd on, mother!'

"Do tell us what it is!" she said, turning dreadfully white, while I stood looking up at him, all ears, you may depend.

"Mike Rood's hung himself on that 'arly apple tree there's ben so much talk about.'

"Did he leave a confession?" she asked.

"Not's I heerd on. The jury hadn't got back when I was down town. He must have done it in the night sometime, for when he was found in the morning he was cold and stiff as a log.'

"Father went out wiping his eyes, and I run up close to grandmother, who was sittin' in her great chair before the fire, and hid my face in her apron, half afeared I should see the dead man.

"There ain't nothin' to be afeared on, Molly," she said, 'though I guess if the truth was all told, there has been them that feared Mike when alive.'

"What for?" I asked.

"Never mind to-day, child! Some long winter evening I'll tell you all about it.'

"I warrant you I didn't let her forgit her promise, for I was mighty fond of stories in them days." She paused a moment to take breath, and then resumed. "It was a dreadful strange thing she told me one night when father and mother had gone to conference meetin' and we were left alone; but everybody believed it in these parts. You see, we'd jest ben in the midst of the old French and Injun war, and folks was afeared of their own shadders. Mike was a strange chap, and nobody knew exactly what to make on him. Some folks thought he warn't very cunnin'; others said he had wit a plenty, only an odd way of showin' on't. He lived alone with his mother, who was a poor

widder. His father was killed a few years afore, fightin' French and Injuns, arter which all the sperit, Mike, had in him was turned agin the French.

"In the fall of '59 a peddler come into town, bringin' all sorts of forrin notions, and everybody set to wonderin' who he was and where he come from.

"*'I know,'* said Mike. 'He's a Frenchman and a spy, that's jest what *he* is; and I dare say, if the truth was known, he come straight down here from Canada. But—' Mike went away whispering to himself, 'Dead men tell no tales! Likely as not, mother'd like some of that stuff o' his'n.'

"Nothin' was ever seen of the forrin peddler arter he went to the Widder Rood's that night, and there was some whisperin' around as though Mike might not have used him fair; but afore winter was over everybody would have ben done talkin' about it, only Mike wouldn't let the subject rest.

"*'What makes the blows on the 'arly apple tree look so red this spring?'* he would ask the children on their way to school. That was one of Mike's foolish questions. And 'Why didn't the old robin come back to her tree *this* year, as she allus had done afore? There ain't another such crotch for a nest in the whole orchard.' The children couldn't tell that, nuther; and their parents said, 'Mike was half-witted to ask such foolish questions.'

"When the apples was ripe the first of August, the children went up one noon-time to beg some. 'The apples is pizen this year,' Mike said, shakin' his head.

"'Give us some, and we'll resk 'em.'

"'I'll bet a copper you darsent eat one on 'em,' he persisted, 'for there's a drop of blood in 'em all.'

"'You've got to show it afore we'll believe it,' the children returned. So Mike went and brought his hands full of great meller apples, and begun to cut 'em up. 'There! Look now!' he said; 'Didn't I tell ye? You may eat 'em all if you want to. *I don't!*'

"Not a child would put a tooth into an apple, for, sure enough, every apple had a drop of blood in't, as Mike had said. The young ones went home and told their story, but nobody believed a word on't till they'd ben and examined for themselves. Then everybody from the minister down said it was a special meracle. Maybe 'twas because the hand that planted the tree was cut off by the blood-thusty enemy.

"Toward the last of October suthin' turned up that set folks thinkin' and talkin' again. A reward of forty pounds was posted up for any information of a young German, who left Philadelphia with an assortment of fancy goods the year afore. The last heerd from him he was travelin' in eastern Connecticut. Everybody who read the notice said straight off, that was the forrin peddler; but what become of him was another thing.

"Mike read the notice with the others and thought he saw a great many eyes looking at him. 'They'll hang me now, as sure as fate,' he thought, as he walked away, 'and they'll git that forty pounds, beside, which is a heap of money. I never should have teched the feller, only I thought he was a cussed Frenchman, one of the very same as knocked over the old man. Ef I could manage now to git that *forty pounds* for mother, and tie the knot in my own halter, they might call Mike Rood half witted as long as they live, for all I care.'

"That night as the wind blew and howled round the old house, and his mother sat paring apples and stringin' 'em on strings to dry, he cut a leaf out of his father's account book, took down the lead inkstand and begun to write—curus-looking writin' it was too. But as his mother looked up and see what he was doin' she thought he was real smart. There warn't no better meanin' woman in the whole town than the Widder Rood.

"'I've a'most forgotten how your writin' looks, mother,' Mike said after awhile. 'You jest take the goose quill and write your name down here where I can see it,' and he handed her the pen with which he had been figerin'. She put down her dish of apples, pleased enough to write her name. He examined it carefully and said, 'that's fust rate! I declare you are the best writer in town, mother.'

"She smiled as she went back to her apples and said, 'Your father used to say the same when I was young.'

"Mike folded up the paper and put it in his pocket. 'Got any arrants up town?' he asked.

"'Not to-night! What makes you go out when it is so windy and cold?'

"'Left one of my cowhides to the shoemaker's this mornin'. He said I could have it by eight o'clock.'

"He went out and set his face toward the town, talkin' all the way to himself as he went. 'Tis all fixed right now, and

mother'll git that *forty pounds*, for didn't they promise it for any information on him *dead or alive*? and ain't she told 'em if they'll come and dig under her arly apple tree, the fust on the right side of the house, and ask her no questions, they'll find what they're lookin' for, dead enough, I guess! I'm awful sorry I hurt the wrong feller, but it can't be helped now. The post-rider will take the letter to Philadelphia short of a week, and by that time I can git mother's wood cut up for winter and be ready to step out afore they come to sarch.'

"Poor Mike, like all boys foolish or witty, loved his mother; and all that week he went around doin' everything he could find to do for her, and she so happy! never dreamin' what sorrow the next week would bring, when her boy was found dead on the arly apple tree, hung by his own hands, for that was the way Micah Rood died."*

NO BLOOD-RELATION.

A good story is told at the expense of one of the Elderkins, whose position and popularity in his native town was assured, but whose habits of conviviality were a little too marked even for those festive days. On town meeting occasions and seasons of general muster it was not uncommon for him to be escorted home by some boon companion of firmer poise. On one of these occasions it was necessary that he should have *two* such supporters. When they reached his door they were met by his wife, one of the proudest and most aristocratic of the Windham dames, who said to them with great dignity of manner, "*Bring him in, gentlemen! Bring him in! But thank the Lord he is no blood-relation of mine.*"

THE FINE.

Some people are always prating about the "good old times," as though the world had been moving crab-wise all the years of the nineteenth century instead of marching triumphantly on from good to better. But my dear old-time worshippers, let us say respectfully, those times were not *all* good; only to you they may seem so, standing out as they do, memory-crowned, on the blessed hills of youth. We like to hear you speak of them, although we look on the Past with the eye of the Present, and

*The *Rood apple* is still found in many orchards with the mysterious *red spot*, which has given rise to so many homely stories.

regret not the days of pain and penalty gone to rest with barbaric ages. The following is a simple, unvarnished tale of the eighteenth century.

A hundred years ago the young people of one of the parishes of old Windham went on a whortleberry expedition to "Toleration Hill." It was on Saturday, a very bad day in those times for pleasure going, inasmuch as the Sabbath, commencing at sundown and continuing until Monday morning, might not be approached in lightsome mood nor the hem of its sable garments be touched by week-day fingers with impunity. Nevertheless the grand berry party of the season came off on Saturday in order to accommodate the village schoolmaster, who was always allowed a portion of the day for *shaving*, *shoe-blackening* and other needful preparations for the "Day of Rest."

The schoolmaster was a new comer to Connecticut, and was already a great favorite in the little inland village which he sought the spring previous for the benefit of his health, as well as to visit the resident physician, who was a friend and classmate of his father. Either the climate suited him or some local attraction detained him beyond the period of an ordinary visit; and when it was proposed to him to take the Center school for a year, he accepted the offer, and at the same time commenced the study of medicine with his father's friend.

Young Sears was just the person *to take* in a rural community, not altogether on account of his good looks and polished manners, but for a genuine heartiness that recommended itself to the plain common sense of the people. The young folks liked him, and drew him out as often as possible to their evening parties and merry-makings, and no one enjoyed a primitive game of *forfeits* better than he, no one could sing "Rose in the garden" with such fullness of expression or richness of tone, and not the best player of them all could sooner detect the magic "*button*" when flying rapidly through maiden fingers.

The young teacher had made many friends, and but one enemy; that was the son of the first tithing-man, who was also one of the wealthiest farmers in the parish. No one except the young man himself had any suspicions of his feelings toward the stranger until the whortleberry party began to be discussed, when his aversion and its secret cause became too apparent to be mistaken. The proposition to have the party on Saturday instead of Thursday, as heretofore, brought Enos Webb to his

feet. He said the schoolmaster counted but one anyway! They had always managed to get along without him, and could again. His words met with no favor, the young men all declaring that Doctor Sears should be one of the party, if they had one.

That same evening Enos, in his Sunday clothes, was seen directing his steps toward the home of Sallie Bingham, the acknowledged belle of the parish. It was the occasional walk of the teacher in that direction which had aroused the young man's jealousy and ill will. A few days before, he had spoken to her of the anticipated party and expressed a wish to join it, adding at the same time that as he was a stranger to such gatherings he hoped she would teach him the etiquette.

Nothing would have given her more pleasure; and now, before anything had been said, Enos must step in to interfere. While the young man was making his bow and getting at the subject, Sallie was resolving in her own mind not to join the party at all if it came off on Thursday.

"I've come to ask you to go a-huckleberrying," he said at last, taking the offered seat.

"It will not be convenient for me to go on Thursday," she replied, coolly.

"Then I'm happy to tell you 'tain't till Saturday, though I, for one, opposed its being put off so till the heel of the week. But there's some folks round here that think nothing can be done without that city chap. Furthermore, I told 'em in the store this morning that we allus had got along without outsiders, and I guessed we could agin. The fools wouldn't listen to me, and if some on 'em don't git fined afore the scrape is over I'm mistaken, Miss Sallie."

"I wouldn't go if I felt as you do, Enos," she replied.

"Wall, I don't care much about it, nohow. So if *you'll* stay to home *I* will; and see then how much they'll make out of their spark. What do you say, now?"

"I make no promises."

"You don't, hey? Then we'll go! You'll ride behind, I s'pose?"

"No, indeed!" she answered, sharply. "If I go at all I shall ride my own pony. Fret loves the woods as well as her mistress."

"But she's too young and frisky for such a scrape. Better have your pillion buckled to my saddle and go safe. My mare s sure."

Sallie preferred her own way, and said so; which ended the colloquy.

Saturday dawned bright and pleasant. As soon as the dew was dried the young people began to gather around the village inn, their place of rendezvous. Their hands were full of baskets, some of which were filled with "good cheer;" for never did a New England party go forth to the fields without plenty of refreshments. The berry-pickings of the last century were the picnics of an utilitarian age, when *pleasure* subserved *use*. The whortleberries were the plums of the Thanksgiving pies and cakes in the early history of our country.

The departure of the company was watched with interest by the villagers, who were curious to see what young lady's pillion was strapped to this or that saddle, for thus were more lasting alliances often foreshown. Some exclamations of surprise had been indulged in before Sallie Bingham stepped on the horse block and poutingly took Fret's bridle-rein from the hand of Enos Webb, Doctor Sears standing near to see her safely mounted. Webb was not at all pleased with the idea of a partnership, and said gruffly: "I say, now, doctor, if you ain't got a girl of your own to look after, you ought to had. I can take care of mine, anyhow!"

"If you have no objection, Enos, I would like to have Doctor Sears take this heavy basket from the horn of my saddle," Sallie said. "Fret won't bear the pounding of it against her side, and I see you have a number of your own to carry while he has none."

"Didn't I tell you at the outset the critter was too coltish for a scrape like this? Better have her turned to clover now, and borrow a pillion and go sensible like other folks."

The mirthful expression of Sears's face, as he quietly took the basket and mounted his own horse, restrained the tempest which was ready to burst from the indignant girl, and the three rode on in silence.

It was a merry cavalcade, certainly, and slightly grotesque, as it wound along the road and up the rugged hill to the far-famed berry pasture. Shouts of merry laughter fell back on the ears of the disaffected Enos, who exclaimed at last: "They're having fun alive ahead there, and that's the way to go a-huckleberrying."

"You are right!" Sallie responded, ashamed of her own ill humor, and her merry laugh soon rang with the loudest. Be-

fore the pasture was reached they were at peace with one another and with the whole world.

Alighting under the shade of the tall oaks, they turned for a moment to gaze on the magnificent panorama of field and forest spread out in the surrounding distance. No lovelier landscape can be found in all the country. The hill was soon dotted all over with industrious gleaners, but as the sun grew warmer the gentlemen insisted on the ladies sitting beneath the oaks, while they loaded their arms with bushes and bore them thither. A huge pile was reared, and two or three of the gentlemen in turn were detailed to preserve its dimensions. Sears was ready to go with each band of marauders, always asserting his fingers were too clumsy for picking.

"Let him go if he wants to," Enos said; when the ladies protested against his cutting another bush. "He's got a first-rate knife—a real two-blade."

"He's wanted here now, to help spread the cloths for luncheon, hand down the baskets, and pare the cucumbers," they said; and the young man was soon following directions. The repast was worthy the fair hands that provided it, and they lingered over the tables, toasting in the currant and gooseberry wine the mothers at home, until it was suggested there was more work to be done. Then the broken food was voted to the "*Mooches*," a family of Mohegan Indians, whose cabin was in the neighborhood, and labor was resumed.

Before the baskets were all filled the tall oaks cast long shadows eastward, and they must hasten home before sundown—a moral necessity, beside which the winter berries were of little consequence. The gentlemen went to saddle the horses, and it was soon announced that Sallie Bingham's pony had slipped her bridle and was missing. Enos wore a look of blank dismay.

"Didn't I tell you in the fust place the critter warn't fit to come to a place like this," he said, tartly. "We're in a pretty fix now, Saturday night and almost sundown! What's to be done about it?"

"*Fines to be paid!*" returned Sallie, with as grave a face as she could command. "You know you said, Enos, some one would get fined before the scrape was through."

"I never *was* fined, Miss Sallie, and more'n that, I never mean

to be. If you can ride home behind me *bare-back*, say so, and we'll be off."

"I cannot," she replied, curtly; "but I can walk." There was mischief in the young lady's eyes. She had little fear for the safety of Fret, who had been known to slip her bridle before.

"I think the matter can be arranged comfortably," the doctor said, with his customary gallantry. "I will put Miss Bingham's saddle on my horse, and walk beside her with the baskets. We have a full moon and I can return for my saddle in the evening. Will this suit?"

"*Not me*," growled Enos, who perceived he was getting the worst of it.

"I think it a slight improvement on riding home bare-back," Sallie said, archly. "But I don't mind the walk in the least myself; I am fond of walking."

The young lady's saddle was brought and put upon the doctor's horse without delay. The others were mounting in hot haste, for the shadows of the oaks were stretching longer and longer with a warning to transgressors. Heavily laden, the horses descended the rugged hill very slowly, but as soon as the level road was reached they were put to as great speed as the safety of belles and berries would admit of. It was of no use. The sun was nearing the edge of the horizon, and before they reached the village was quite lost sight of. Enos rode all the way in dogged silence. They had fallen some distance behind their companions, notwithstanding the doctor's best endeavors to keep up, for Sallie refused to ride forward and leave him on foot and alone, and Enos determined not to leave her behind with his rival. The situation was ludicrous. Sallie enjoyed it, and rode slower and slower every moment, joking about their forlorn appearance. "Don't you see, Enos, there is Constable Hibbard keeping a vigilant eye upon us, as the law directs? I dare say this very minute he is saying to himself, to hear how it will sound, 'Be it enacted, that if any young persons shall convene, or meet together in company, in the street or elsewhere, on the evening next before or on the evening next following the Lord's day, or on the evening next following any public day of fast, and be thereof convicted, the same shall suffer the penalty of *three shillings*, or sit in the stocks not exceeding two hours.' Which will *we* do, Enos? I don't think there is much choice."

The doctor laughed heartily, and inquired how she had learned so much statute law. "It is the first thing taught us after the catechism," she said; "taught, you know, by express legislation, and comes under the 'Act for educating and governing children.' My father was a justice of the peace."

The fear of *stocks* or *fine* did not rest heavily on the young lady's mind as she rode leisurely along, attended, as she declared, by both horseman and footman, the eight o'clock bell ringing all the while. Aunt Zipparah, who had reared the motherless girl from babyhood, met them at the door, wondering what had happened to detain them, and thankful it was nothing more serious. Fret was in the pasture. The good lady insisted on the gentlemen coming in to supper, as the doctor must be tired after his long walk, and Sol should go back for the saddle meanwhile. The invitation was accepted by both, Enos remarking he wasn't in the habit of being out Saturday nights, but seeing as the doctor was going to stay, he guessed he'd jine him, adding "he didn't s'pose it would hurt a fellow any more to be hung for an *old* sheep than for a *lamb*."

The supper passed pleasantly, their hostess helping her young guests bountifully, while inquiring as to their success, and speaking of the pleasure she had in such berry parties when she was younger. An open bible was on the stand, with her silver bowed spectacles beside it, suggestive of the Sabbath begun in a teachable spirit. Although reared in the strictest Puritanic school of the age, her faith was without bigotry or fanaticism, her religion full of charity and good works. Her brother's motherless child had crept into her warm heart and filled the place of a broken idol.

In the interval between morning and afternoon service the next day, the town officers consulted together in regard to the trespass of the berry-party on the *holy time* the night previous. They were not agreed, the majority considering it meet subject for fine, while the minority pleaded accidental detention. As minorities do not rule, the offenders were waited upon the next day and their violation of statute law suitably impressed on their minds by the imposition of the sum sanctioned by legislative authority. The fines were paid without demurring, and sixty shillings found their way that day into the public treasury.

STORY OF ABIJAH FULLER.

Of the *seventeen cousins* that Hampton sent to the revolutionary army, several were athletes. Ralph Farnham was the heaviest man of the Connecticut soldiery, and the only man in the army that his cousin, Abijah Fuller, could not throw in a wrestling match. This same Fuller was Dana's orderly sergeant, and all night preceding the battle of Bunker Hill helped to draw the lines of fortification on Breed's Hill and the line of defense to repel any flank movement of the enemy. Putnam delighted to call him "one of his best boys," and their friendship was as lasting as their lives.

When at the battle of White Plains his cousin Ralph fell wounded, he lifted the big fellow to his broad shoulders, determined not to leave him in the hands of the enemy. Powerful as he was, he was unable to keep pace with his flying regiment, and the bullets fell about him like hail as he gradually fell behind his comrades. "Leave me, for God's sake, 'Bije, and save yourself!" was the earnest entreaty of Farnham. "Not while Abijah Fuller can put leg to the ground!" was the determined reply. And so the retreat went on, the hooting and shouting of the enemy in their ears.

Exhausted at last, and hearing his pursuers close at hand, he laid his wounded cousin gently on the ground, turned and shot the foremost, then took up his burden again and went on until he neared an enclosure, when, dropping the wounded Goliath once more, he loaded his musket, turned, and picked off the next in pursuit, the enemy shouting and firing continually. Entering the sheltering barn yard, he deposited his wounded relative under a cart, while he again loaded his trusty gun.

"Leave me here and fly!" once more entreated his comrade. "It will be sure death to us both if you do not. Save yourself and good-bye!" There seemed no help for it. Fuller was utterly exhausted, for the poor fellows had gone into the recent conflict without food or drink, hungry and barefoot. His arms felt powerless; he could scarcely lift his gun. Bidding his friend a hurried farewell, he started to flee, and his long strides would soon have put him beyond pursuit had not the derisive shouts of the enemy maddened him. Turning his steps, he sent another ball to the heart of the third man—a ball which ever after was a wound on his conscience. "I was out of their reach,"

he would say, when telling the story, "and they had taken no notice of Ralph. It was *me* they were after, and I was so mad at their mockery I had *murder* in my heart, and shall have it to answer for at last, for it was not a shot in self-defense, like the two first." This he always affirmed.

With three of their number killed and the giant rebel too much for them, the British soldiers picked up the bodies of their dead companions and retraced their steps to the victors of the day, while Fuller conveyed his cousin to their broken regiment. Fifty years after the battle of Lexington, on the 4th of July, 1826, *forty-two* hoary headed veterans, under their old leader, Abijah Fuller, with Nat Farnham as drum major, Foster* and Faville as fifers, put on their revolutionary regimentals, and, with a tattered battle flag, marched up and down the main street of Hampton to the music of "'76." Some of them were battle scarred, halt and lame, but their hearts beat as high for Freedom and Independence as they had done fifty years before, when they first responded to their country's call. Persons who remember the impressive scene assert there was not a dry eye among the numerous spectators. When the marching was done a feast was spread, and with something stronger than water in their old canteens, they drank to the memory of Putnam, Knowlton, Dana and others of their illustrious leaders and friends who had passed to the invisible army beyond.

The simple and social habits of Windham county favored longevity. A number of the revolutionary soldiers neared a century. Abijah Fuller is said to have become quite religious in his old age. Always somewhat opinionated, he waged war against a salaried ministry, insisting it was every man's duty to preach as he had opportunity. His fellow townsmen, loving the old man, and wishing to gratify him, urged him to go into the pulpit, and had a meeting appointed for him. Everybody went to hear what the old soldier was moved to say. A hymn was read and sung, a prayer made, and then he essayed to speak. Looking down on the eagerly upturned faces, he grew nervous and forgot his train of thought. Hemming and hesitating for awhile, the honest old fellow said at last, "My friends, if any of you think as I did, that preaching is an easy business, just come up here and try it! I don't find it so."

* Joseph Foster was one of *twelve sons*, who, with their father, all bore a part in the war of the revolution. Their united service undoubtedly exceeded that of any other family in the country.

SABBATH-BREAKING.

An early official of the town, a venerable judge, was surprised one Sabbath morning to see a man driving a small flock of sheep. This was an offense against good morals not to be overlooked, and the man was at once apprehended and informed that the sheep must be impounded, to which he quietly acquiesced. *To do this* was more easily said than done, as the creatures belonged to a genus described in Scripture parable, "A stranger will they not follow, for they know not the voice of strangers." The old gentleman called and called, but the animals ran the other way, baa-ing piteously. The congregation was just assembling for morning worship, and the judge shouted for help. A general hubbub ensued, the frightened sheep scattering in every direction, while the Law ran hither and thither. It was an uncertain chase until the owner of the flock came to the assistance of the weary officer and his auxiliaries and quietly called the poor animals into an enclosure, where they rested until the "Lord's Day" was past, and the fine for Sabbath-breaking was imposed and settled.

A later and more ludicrous story was the following, told by a well known citizen of Windham, as a warning to young officials whose zeal sometimes outstripped their wisdom.

When newly appointed a justice of the peace, he felt it his duty to enforce the Sunday laws with rigor. Seeing a stranger riding past his house one Sabbath morning, he accosted him officially, inquiring his name, place of residence, and wherefore he was breaking the Sabbath contrary to law. The man replied very frankly, giving his name, place of residence (Ashford, Conn.), and his reason for traveling that day his father was lying dead there. His replies were satisfactory, and he was allowed to proceed.

Not long after, the young justice was at Brooklyn attending court. The affair occurring to him he inquired of an Ashford lawyer if he knew the person he named and described, and was answered in the affirmative. "He has lately buried his father, has he not?"

The reply was a stunner. "Why, bless you, *his father has been dead twenty years.*"

The judge, when telling the story at his own expense, added that it taught him a good lesson, and that whenever he saw a

person riding along quietly and peaceably on the Sabbath never to interrogate him.

STRONG MINDED WOMEN.

Strong minded women are not the exclusive product of the present. Windham county scored a few in the past. One of these was the wife of Jethro Rogers, the most inoffensive man in Canada parish. Tradition speaks of her as a virago of the most turbulent type, who ruled her husband with a tongue of flame. If a visitor approached the house, she usually managed to drive him out; but on one occasion the advent of the minister gave him no time to escape, so he was ordered under the bed. Weary of his hiding place, he ventured at last to look out, but her eyes met his with a "*How dare you?*" For once his temper was up, and he exclaimed: "You may wink, Mrs. Rogers, as much as you've a mind to; *but as long as I have the spirit of a man in me I will peek!*"

The minister did not stop for prayer.

On another occasion, when sick to death of her abuse, he ventured on some words not found in the catechism. The woman's surprise was supreme, and she exclaimed fiercely, "Not another crooked word, Jethro Rogers!" But the little man drew himself up to his full height and said proudly, "*Ramshorn, if I die for it!*"

Another of the unterrified was a resident of one of the northern towns of the county, a woman who was noted for her fondness for litigation. Scarcely a term of court that her name was not on the docket, and her readiness to assist her counsel and browbeat witnesses so exasperated the judge on one occasion as to make him forget his judicial dignity and exclaim: "There is *brass* enough in your face, madam, to make a five-pailful kettle." "And *sap* enough in your honor's head to fill it," was the quick retort that set the house in an uproar. *The judge had to confess himself beaten.*

THE FIRST LOCOMOTIVE.

When the first steam engine thundered along the valley of the Willimantic, an untraveled laborer was chopping in the North Windham woods. Hearing the distant rumble, he listened with awe, thinking of thunder and earthquakes, until the sudden scream of the locomotive froze him with terror. To use

his own words—"I then braced myself square against a big tree, lifted up my axe ready to strike, and stood with hair on end till the sounds died away. *I thought it was a worrin-eag.*"*

Very different was the impression on the mind of a venerable clergyman of Thompson, who, gazing from his study window one evening, saw the first lighted train speeding along the Quinebaug.

"Those are none other than the 'chariots of fire' foretold by the ancient prophet," he exclaimed with enthusiasm, "which are to waft the news of salvation to the uttermost ends of the earth."

WINDHAM WAGS.

The Windham boys were never weary of practical jokes. It was their annual custom to go to the Shetucket for shad, and return for a night supper and a little carousal at Staniford's. On one occasion two or three of the young men played off, promising to help on the preparations during the absence of their companions. The piscatorial party set out with their seine and plenty of liquid warmth, which they used ostensibly to prevent taking cold.

No sooner had the sound of their wheels and the sound of their voices died out in the distance, than the delinquents with another team followed as noiselessly as possible to the well known fishing ground. The evening was quite dusky, and they succeeded in planting their wagon at a convenient distance unobserved by their noisy comrades, who had imbibed too freely to be keenly observant. With shouts and jokes the great fish were deposited in their cart by the unsuspecting youth, and just as silently, one by one, they were transferred to the other vehicle by the wicked marauders, until only a few of inferior size remained to the indefatigable toilers. Then, as noiselessly as they came, the plunderers returned to town, and the luscious shad were on the broilers when their companions came with loud demonstrations of success and drew their cart up before the kitchen door. The boys were on the watch and did not reveal themselves until their crest-fallen comrades, looking in vain for their spoils, asserted that the tail-board of their cart must have slipped and let out the greatest quantity of fish ever hauled from the Shetucket. Then their ears were greeted with, "What

* *Worrin-eag*, a monster often named by old people; did they mean *warriangle*?

SHAD-oh's we are, and what SHAD-oh's we pursue!" The joke was comprehended, and the injured party agreed "to pay the shot" for their stupidity if no more were said about it. This story was told me by a lady whose brother was one of the marauders.

One of these same Windham boys was an impromptu rhymer, who frequently surprised his listeners with a happy doggerel. A man from the outskirts of the town was often seen on the street, mounted on a sorrel mare and followed by a colt, the very miniature of its dam. The man wore a butternut colored coat, corresponding in hue with his sandy hair and whiskers. One day as he was riding past a group of hotel loungers, the wag arose and said solemnly—

"Colt and mare, coat and hair,
All compare, I swear!"

OLD TIME PEDAGOGUES.

The school teachers of Connecticut were not exactly life incumbents like the clergy, but in many instances they held their offices until quite superannuated. One of these had long presided over the centre district of Hampton. Never perhaps overlearned, he became dogmatic with years, brooking no contradiction. One of his pupils, a daughter of the parish minister, was reading with her class in the New Testament, as was the morning custom. She came to the passage, "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick," which was rendered correctly. "Read that over, and read it right," growled the old man. The verse was read again as before. "Didn't I tell you to read it right?" persisted the teacher. The girl was bewildered and stood silent, while her sapient instructor read, much to the amusement of the school, "*They that are whole need not a physick-in, but they that are sick!*" "My father taught me to read it the other way," she ventured to say. "Humph!" responded the old man, savagely; "*Did your father ever keep school?*"

That was the old gentleman's last term, the district voting Mr. H—— no longer fitted for his office.

Another of the old *regime*, who held sway in the South district of Windham village, had a very novel mode of punishing his youthful charges for minor offenses, such as whispering, tardiness, imperfect lessons, etc. He kept a basin of *thoroughwort* steeping on the stove, and forced a draught of it upon little

offenders, probably considering it more salutary than the rod or ferule. When relieved of his office, the old man's great amusement was *attending funerals* in his own and all the neighboring towns. On one occasion his grief was great because two such ceremonies were to take place at the same hour, as he could necessarily attend but one. A lady who had often tasted his bitter tea when a pupil at the Old South, told of a visit he made to her sick room while she was suffering from typhoid fever. Weak and exhausted, she had lain for hours speechless, while at the same time she was entirely conscious of all around her. After gazing on her for awhile he turned to her mother and said: "Harriet cannot get well, and I want you to be sure and let me know when the funeral is, as I don't want to miss it."

Another case of discipline—the best on record—occurred in the south district of Scotland, usually known as the Bakertown district. There were many ludicrous names appended to the school districts of Windham county. We had in our small parish a Bakertown, a Brunswick, a Pudding Hill and a Pinch Gut, which last obtained a small share of the "means of grace" from the manifest aversion of ministers to making the appointments. These districts are all picturesquely rugged, like the character of the English Puritan Carvers and Fullers and Robinsons, or of the French Huguenot Waldos, Devotions, La Salles and Luces, whose pilgrim feet found their way to the hills of eastern Connecticut.

The Bakertown school house stood in a secluded spot, a spot too barren for the culture of anything save country lads and lasses. But these flourished well here under birchen rule, and have gone forth noble men and women to the remotest ends of the world, with a farewell to Bakertown on their lips and rich memories of many a Bakertown frolic in their hearts.

Our school house, like the gospel house, was "founded on a rock." Behind it rose a lofty ledge of granite, a natural fortification of the little seat of learning below. Every winter, bastions and block houses of snow were ranged along the summit of this ledge, and youths with martial airs, armed with strange looking weapons, were seen going hither and thither, as though the Bakertown district were threatened with some foreign invasion.

At last, as neither Brunswickers, Pudding Hillers nor Pinch Gutters came to meet them in battle array, they began to seek a

home field for action. Their weapons, which have not yet been described, became instruments of *offense*, and led to their destruction.

Never in any locality has the elder shrub (*sambucus caprifoliæ*) grown in greater luxuriance than in Bakertown. Its hedge-rows, crowned with myriads of white, umbrella-looking clusters, were the summer fragrance of the fields. From some person—it must have been from the parish minister, I suppose, since no one else knew anything about *Hebrew*—we learned that that nation formerly made a musical instrument of the elder, called a *sambuca*, whence its botanical name. It was too learned a name for the Bakertown boys, however; plain elder or popgun-wood suited them better and was a deal more significant. “The oldest Jew,” they used to say boastingly, “never began to see anything made of elder half equal to a Bakertown *popgun*,” and these were the weapons of the Bakertown militia. Every boy in school had a gun suited to his size and capacity. Some of them were prodigious and carried a double charge, and that, too, before the days of Colt’s revolvers; not of fire and death, however, but only of *tow wads*. Some of our readers may have heard of the wag’s logical way of showing the true ruler of a Connecticut community to be the Yankee schoolmaster, “who ruled the boys, who ruled their mothers, who ruled the men, who ruled the roost.” One winter our time-honored ruler went to seek his fortune elsewhere, and we had a new teacher—a gentle, book-loving young man, reared in the neighborhood, and consequently, prophetic-like, without honor. The old master had long been absolute. Insubordination never prevailed in *his* realm, for every symptom of disobedience was most effectively crushed in the bud.

But another order of things came in with the new *regime*. Was not the pale, stripling-looking youth the crazy old huckleberry woman’s son, whom the children all laughed at, while listening to her strange stories? Everybody in the district knew “Granny Woodban.” She was one of the appurtenances of the locality, living in the berry fields all summer, and wandering off, no one knew where, in winter. Her son was a scholar and a genius, who had fitted himself for college behind the plow and in the chimney corner of the farmer’s kitchen to whom he was bound.

Such was the young man who presumed to ask the district fathers for the privilege of guiding their sons and daughters a little way along the path of science, and for the consideration

of ten dollars a month to fit him for the university. For which act of presumption the martial youths voted him a suitable butt for *popgun* aim.

The new teacher commenced his work with a fixed determination to overcome, by faithful, persevering kindness, the rebellious dispositions of his young subjects, and bring them to friendly allegiance. Night after night, and day after day, he racked his aching head for some mild means of bringing them to obedience. New books awoke no enthusiasm; evening spelling schools were fully attended, sides were chosen, and everyone praised; but then in the very face and eyes of their instructor, the victorious side would fire a popgun volley at its own success. In all this the young master discovered more of mischief than of malice, and acted accordingly when counseled to chastise the offenders.

"Flog *my* boys soundly as they deserve," said one and another of the honest farmers to the patient preceptor, "and if that don't supple them, we'll take 'em in hand ourselves." It was friendly advice, and well meant, but the stripling teacher had no thought of matching his strength with the sturdy young yeomen.

"They have been driven with too tight a check rein already, and will fall into a natural pace by-and-by," was the pleasant rejoinder of the master.

"Mebbe so! But mind, Charlie, and not let 'em run away with you fust. Solomon's law was a middlin' good one—'A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a *rod* for the fool's back.' The lads are full on't and no mistake!"

"Full on't" they were, indeed, but the long suffering teacher determined not to lose his temper, though their popguns were the plague of his life. They greeted his morning advent into the school room and his evening departure. More than this, sometimes in the very midst of a lesson, a *pop-pop* told that somehow one of the big guns had discharged its twin wads.

One day they went a step beyond the teacher's patience and forbearance, and a crisis was the result. It was "Committee Day," the day when the elected officers came to visit and examine the school, for the first time that season. It proved a *committee of one*, that afternoon, as only the parish minister made his appearance. According to custom, all rose at his entrance; but following no precedent whatever, the boys greeted his rev-

erence with one of their *tallest* salutes, every one of them pushing his ramrod vigorously at the same moment.

A flush of mortification overspread the pale face of the master, who for a full hour had been prescribing tasks and exhorting to good behavior; then his pale face became paler than before.

There was a merry twinkle in the parson's black eyes, and he received the salutation with a pleasant smile, as though it had been given by order of their teacher, and not by a band of young rebels. It was very kind in the old man; the boys saw it so, and did their best at the lessons, and kept unusually quiet during the "remarks" and in prayer time. Moreover, when going home from school that night, they declared they would make Parson Fisher their chaplain, as he knew how to appreciate an honor. But the days of the Bakertown militia were numbered. The next morning the teacher appeared with a countenance as serenely calm as ever, though some of the rogues afterward affirmed they saw "a tiger in his eye" from the first.

"We will omit the usual exercises this morning," he said pleasantly, "and have a *drill!* Captain Tracy, call out your company!"

Teacher and pupil exchanged glances. There was no mistaking the word of command. The captain was chief no longer, and prepared to obey the order of his superior. The roll call was made and responded to with military precision; then the young soldiers were ordered *to fall into line* in front of the school house, where a drill began such as the little company had never before undergone. All night the poor teacher had been studying his lesson from an old manual of arms which he found in the farmer's garret.

The command "Right!" was given in a clear, full voice, and every urchin did his best, although two or three of the younger ones turned heads to the left instead, and had to be regulated. Then came the second order, "Front!" and every face was turned forward. "Attention!" and all eyes were fixed on the master. "Right face!" and the movement was performed accurately. "About face!" was the next command, and there was some blundering, the right feet getting too near the left heels, which the master would by no means allow.

Captain Tracy stood manfully by the young teacher's side, watching with surprise and interest his instructions, and learning more of military tactics than he had ever known before.

After the "facings" were gone through with efficiently, the principles of the "ordinary step" were explained, and the mode of executing it. This was followed by "Forward—march!" when the twenty boys were all in motion, and kept in motion until the order "Halt!" arrested their steps.

Four in rank, elbow to elbow, the young rascals were then drilled in the "Practice of Arms," and the way the *popguns* were handled for the next hour was amusing to the girlish spectators, but too tedious to detail. Enough that they "drew ramrods," "rammed cartridges" "made ready," "took aim," and "fired," until but one charge of tow remained. Then, at the master's command, they marched back into the school room for a last gun. It was done, and but one more order was given.

"Captain Tracy, I am much pleased with your company. Instruct your soldiers now to 'Deposit arms!'" and he pointed significantly to the open Franklin stove.

There was no shrinking nor hesitation. With a proud gesture the gallant young leader advanced and laid his own weapon first on the blazing fire; every lad followed, and in five minutes the *popguns* were reduced to ashes.

"We are *your* boys for the winter, sir," said the captain, a great, noble hearted fellow in spite of his mischief, as he bowed to the now recognized sovereign of the school room. "We only wanted to know our master, and have found him quite to our liking."

The drill ended with the kindest feelings on all sides. At noon the *popgun* company was disbanded by mutual consent. A debating club arose out of its ruins, and before spring these martial students were discussing questions of national policy and moral justice, to the great satisfaction of the district fathers, and of the old parish minister, also, who never to his dying day forgot the salute of the Bakertown militia.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE TOWN OF WINDHAM.

Geographical Description.—Settlement.—Town Charter and Organization.—The Early Settlers.—Laying out the Land.—County Relations.—Early Town Officers.—Enlargement of Territory.—Settlement of the Eastern Quarter.—Mechanical and Commercial Trades Introduced.—Division of Town and Formation of Mansfield.—Various Phases of Public Interest.—Growth of the Northeast Section, called Canada Parish.—Society Organization.—Probate Court Established.—Some Prominent Families.—Windham made Shiretown.—Attempts at Manufacturing.—Scotland Society Organized.—Town Action.—Schools.—Early Taverns.—Prosperity of the Town.—Industries.—Under the War Clouds.—Removal of the Courts.—Reduction of Territory.—Through the Revolution.—Material Prosperity.—Social Innovations.—Roads and Bridges.

THE town of Windham, one of the smallest in geographical size, but the largest in population, wealth and business importance, occupies the extreme southwest corner of Windham county. Its area is about two and three-fourths square miles. The beautiful valley of the Willimantic river extends along the southern part, entering at the extreme western point and leaving at the southeastern corner. This river affords abundant water power for many factories, and to this circumstance is due the building up and prosperity of the town. The Natchaug, a considerable stream, joins it a short distance east of the borough limits of Willimantic. Back from the river the town is broken into successive ridges of hills, rising about two hundred feet above the general level of the intervening valleys. Besides the borough of Willimantic, in the southwest part, the smaller villages of North Windham in the northern part, South Windham in the southern part and Windham in the central part, are in this town. Otherwise the surface of the town is mostly covered with forest growth which affords some valuable timber. The agricultural interests of the town are not prominent. The New York & New England railroad extends through the western and northern parts and the Providence Division and the

New London Northern run along the Willimantic valley in the southern part. The geographical size of the original town of Windham has been greatly diminished by the formation of the towns of Scotland, Hampton and Chaplin.

The acquisition of the Indian title to the territory occupied by Windham has been set forth in a previous chapter so fully that it will only be necessary here to repeat that the territory in question was a gift by will of the Indian Joshua to sixteen gentlemen of Norwich, who were intrusted with the business of settling a plantation upon it. The first settlement upon it is said to have been made by one John Cates, an English refugee, in the autumn of 1688. From that, settlement progressed slowly for three years, when there were upon the tract about thirty settlers. None of the men named in the bequest, however, became actual settlers. In the autumn of 1691 application was made for a town charter, but the grant was not immediately made. In the following spring, however, the petition was granted, the general court of Connecticut on the 12th of May, 1692, enacting that township privileges be granted to the petitioners, and that the town should be called Windham. These petitioners were Joshua Ripley, John Cates, Jeremiah Ripley, Jonathan Crane, Joseph Huntington, William Backus, Jonathan Ginnings, Thomas Huntington, Richard Hendee, John Backus and John Larrabee.

Under the new charter the first public town meeting was held June 12th, 1692. By this time four more had been added to the eleven just named. These were John Fitch, who had recently removed to the Hither-place, and Jonathan Hough, Samuel Hide and John Royce, who had established a settlement in the distant Ponde-place. At the first town meeting Joshua Ripley was chosen town clerk; Jeremiah Ripley, Jonathan Crane and Jonathan Hough, townsmen; Thomas Huntington and John Royce, surveyors; Joseph Huntington, Jonathan Hough, Samuel Hide and John Fitch, to lay out highways. A committee was also appointed to carry on negotiations with a minister in regard to settlement among them.

Previous to the settlement of a minister Mr. Jabez Fitch officiated as religious leader. The house of Mr. John Fitch, the latest and probably the best built house in the settlement, was selected to be the meeting house until other provision should be made. The town ordered that it be fortified and a lean-to built, "every man doing his share of the fortification." During the summer

of 1692 several new inhabitants removed to the Ponde-place, and considerable progress was made in that settlement, and altogether the growth of the settlement was such that at its town meeting May 30th, 1693, the list of approved inhabitants numbered twenty-two. Their names were: Joshua Ripley, Jonathan Crane, Jonathan Ginnings (or Jennings), Joseph Huntington, Thomas Huntington, William Backus, John Backus, John Larrabee, Thomas Bingham, John Rudd, Jeremiah Ripley, John Cates, Richard Hendee, James Birchard, Jonathan Hough, Samuel Hide, John Royce, Samuel Birchard, Robert Wade, Peter Crosse, Samuel Linkon and John Arnold.

Of these twenty-two inhabitants the last eight had settled at the Ponde-place, all others except John Larrabee (who kept the ferry between the two settlements) being residents of the Hither-place or southeast quarter. Thomas Bingham, who had removed from Norwich with a large family of sons and daughters, was an important acquisition to Windham. He purchased, in March, 1693, Captain John Mason's first lot at the southeast quarter, being then about fifty years old. His oldest daughter, Mary, had married John Backus the previous summer. John Arnold had been a schoolmaster in Norwich, and was one of the most intelligent and influential of the Ponde-place settlers. Samuel and James Birchard were the sons of John Birchard, one of the Norwich legatees. Improvements and accommodations kept pace with the increase of population. Great care was taken to provide for the Ponde-place people. Sign posts were ordered against William Backus' house at the Hither-place, and Samuel Hide's at the Ponde-place. A public pound was provided and burying grounds were laid out, one at each settlement. Jonathan Ginnings and the Ripleys were granted the privilege of setting up a saw mill at "No-man's-acre Brook."

During that summer (1693) it was determined that the dividing line between the settlers in the wilderness from Hartford and from Norwich should be the Willimantic river, the Norwich people holding on the east of it and the Hartford people holding on the west of it. In December the town passed regulations in regard to fences, cattle, swine, timber and the warning of town meetings. In the following spring we have the first record of the lay-out of a highway. This was ordered through Peter Crosse's division, extending from the Ponde-place to the Willimantic river near the falls. The meadows in this vicinity fur-

nished the Windham settlers with a great part of their hay, and to facilitate its conveyance this highway was ordered "four rods wide from the hill to the river, seven rods wide down to the meadow and four rods wide between meadow and fence." Twelve acres below the falls were allowed to Mr. Crosse in compensation for land taken up by this highway.

The home lots laid out at Willimantic were not as yet taken up by the proprietors, and in April, 1694, they received permission from the town to exchange them for allotments "at or about the Crotch of the river"—that remarkable curve in the Natchaug near its junction with the Willimantic, also known as the Horseshoe. Seven lots were now laid out in this vicinity. Joshua Ripley, Samuel Hide, Joseph Huntington, Peter Crosse and Thomas Bingham were appointed a committee to select two lots at the "Crotch of the River," one for the minister and one for the ministry. The remaining home lots were sold to settlers, who soon took possession. Goodman William More, of Norwich, purchased a lot laid out to William Backus; Benjamin Millard, also from Norwich, bought of Thomas Leffingwell a thousand-acre allotment at the Horseshoe, a part of which is still held by his descendants. Benjamin Howard and Joseph Cary, of Norwich, and John Broughton, of Northampton, soon settled in this vicinity. This new settlement was also called "The Centre," from its position between the older ones, and seemed destined for a time to become the most important. The seventh lot was chosen for the minister and the sixth for the ministry, and great efforts were made to have the meeting house built upon it.

Windham had previously manifested a desire to be annexed to Hartford county. She had petitioned the general court to this end, and in May, 1694, the petition was granted, and this town became a factor of Hartford county. The town was now fairly embarked upon its career of ups and downs, and various experiences common to the towns of that period and surroundings. A military company was founded, of which John Fitch was lieutenant, Jonathan Crane was ensign, and Samuel Hide sergeant. Training days were inaugurated, and ever after celebrated with the usual hilarity. Highways were laid out such as were needed "on or about the hill that lies west of the Pond." A custom was then established by public order, that at subse-

quent town meetings the moderator should open the deliberations with prayer.

Let us now turn for a moment to notice some of the individual members that were swelling the body corporate. William and Joseph Hall, Joshua and John Allen, Nathaniel Bassett, Benjamin Armstrong, Samuel Gifford and Robert Smith were now settled at the Ponde; the Halls having come from Plymouth, Bassett from Yarmouth, and the others probably from Norwich. Joseph Dingley now occupied the allotment purchased by Captain Standish. William Backus exchanged his house and accommodations at the Hither-place for Ensign Crane's grist mill. Crane sold the house and lot to Exercise Conant in 1695, and Conant conveyed it to John Abbe, of Wenham, July 3d, 1696, for £70 in silver. Samuel Abbe, probably a brother of John, purchased half an allotment and half a house at the Centre, of Benjamin Howard, in 1697. John Waldo, of Boston, a reported descendant of Peter Waldo, of Lyons, purchased an allotment laid out to Reverend James Fitch, and was admitted an inhabitant here in 1698. William Hide, William Moulton, Philip Paine, John Ashby, Josiah Kingsley, Samuel Storrs, Samuel Storrs, Jr., Robert and Joseph Hebard, Isaac Magoon, John Howard and Thomas Denham, were also admitted inhabitants in the year 1698, or before; Shubael Dimmock in 1699, and Abraham Mitchell in 1700. James Birchard sold his right to Philip Paine in 1696, and removed to the West Farms of Norwich. Samuel Abbe died a few months after his arrival here, his son Samuel succeeded to his estate at the Centre, and his widow married Abraham Mitchell. John Cates, the first Windham settler, died in the summer of 1697. He left a service of plate for the communion service of the church, two hundred acres of land in trust for the poor, and two hundred acres to be applied to schools.

The town officers elected for the year 1698 were: Joshua Ripley, town clerk; Joseph Dingley and Joseph Hall, collectors for minister; Thomas Huntington and Jonathan Ginnings, fence viewers for south end of town; William More, surveyor of highways for south end; Samuel Lincoln, surveyor for north end; William Backus, pound keeper and hayward for the great field at the south end; Benjamin Millard, hayward for fields at Crotch of River; Lieutenant Fitch and Samuel Birchard, to lay out land. The value set upon allotments at this time was £35 each.

During this period one of the chief questions which agitated the corporate mind was the location and erection of a meeting house and the collection of taxes to pay the minister, these things being, according to the custom and sentiment of the time, legitimately under the care of the town in its capacity as a political organization. After much social commotion on the subject, a site was decided upon, and January 30th, 1700, the front part of William Backus's home lot at the southeast quarter was purchased by Mr. Whiting and Ensign Crane, and made over by them to the town, for a "meeting-house plat or common." This was the nucleus of Windham Green, on which the first meeting house was soon after erected. The thousand-acre right which had been reserved for the minister was soon afterward made over to Reverend Mr. Whiting, the first settled minister of this town church, a more detailed account of which will be given in its appropriate place.

The territory of this town was enlarged by the addition of two considerable tracts of adjacent land. The tract which lay between the former bounds of the town and the limit of Norwich, called the Mamosqueage lands, reserved by Joshua for the benefit of his children, was contested by Owaneco, and only after a long and troublesome controversy secured by Joshua's son, Abimileck, who sold it to John Clark and Thomas Buckingham. This tract, embracing about ten thousand acres, lying west of Nipmuck path, was purchased in 1698 by Messrs. Crane and Huntington, in behalf of the proprietors of Windham, and in 1700 made over to Reverend Samuel Whiting and Jonathan Crane, who assumed the whole charge of it, laying it out in shares and selling it to settlers. Their right was challenged by Lieutenant Daniel Mason, who had received a deed of the land from Owaneco, and in spite of the decision adjudging it to Abimileck, Mason in 1701 openly proclaimed his right to the lands at Mamosqueage, and warned all people against cumbering the same. In September of that year, however, the general court confirmed the land to Messrs. Whiting and Crane and granted them a patent for it. The other tract referred to was the broad stretch of meadows west of the Willimantic river, which was not included in the former grant to Windham or to Lebanon. Residents of both these towns had purchased land in this section, and as settlers took possession the question arose as to which town they belonged. Upon application to the general court, a

committee was sent to consider the situation and report. Upon their report it was decided that the tract in question should be attached to Windham, which decision appears to have been agreeable to all concerned. The boundary line between the two towns was satisfactorily and permanently settled by a committee from each town, September 23d, 1701.

About the year 1700, settlement in the quarter now known as Scotland was begun by Isaac Magoon, who had been admitted as an inhabitant in 1698. A hundred-acre division of lands in the town was made in 1700, each proprietor being allowed considerable latitude in his choice of location, with certain qualifications, one of which was that they were not to choose land within one mile of the meeting house.

With the increase of population came the establishment of various trades and enterprises for the benefit, real or imaginary, of the people. In 1700, Benjamin Millard was allowed to set up the trade of a tanner. Lieutenant Crane received permission from the court at Hartford "to keep a public victualing house for the entertainment of strangers and travelers and the retailing of strong drink." Sergeant Hide had license to keep an ordinary at the Ponde, and "retale his mathagiline so far as y^e towne have power." Liberty to build a saw mill on Goodman Hebard's brook, and the privilege of the stream for damming or "ponding," was granted to several petitioners, or, "if that would not answer, take any other stream." It was decided that the miller should grind corn for the people every Monday and Tuesday, and if more was brought than he could grind in the specified days, he was to keep on grinding till all was finished. In December, 1702, the town for the first time made provision for a school, directing the selectmen to agree with a school master or mistrees, the "scollars to pay what the rate falls short."

Soon after this it began to appear to the people that the town was too large to be advantageously managed under one local government. Movements toward division which began in 1701 were consummated in May, 1703, by the division of the territory into two parts, called the northern and southern parts, though more properly they were the eastern and western. The western part of the town, comprising forty-one square miles, was erected into the township of Mansfield. A part of its original territory is now included in Chaplin. A patent was granted by the general court to the new town of Mansfield, likewise a new patent

to the town of Windham, thus reconstructed of one-half of the original Joshua's tract and the Clark and Buckingham tract added to it.

The town thus reduced in size was able to give closer attention to the details of its own territory and organization. The boundary line on the east was for many years a matter of disagreement and litigation with Canterbury. In 1703 the town also agreed to have but one "ordinary" within it; that one to be kept by Lieutenant Crane. Lieutenant Fitch was chosen town clerk at this time, a position which he continued to hold for many years. When the Indian war broke out in 1704, the freeholders were all required to remain in the town under penalty of forfeiture of their estates, or a fine of ten pounds to be levied on any other male persons, not freeholders, over sixteen years of age, who should leave the place. Knapsacks, hatchets and snowshoes were provided by the selectmen, to be ready for emergencies, and ten pounds in silver were expended for a stock of ammunition. The militia was reorganized, Windham now having population sufficient to form a full train band. John Fitch was appointed captain, Jonathan Crane lieutenant, and Joseph Cary ensign. A watch was maintained along the frontiers, and houses were fortified according to law, but the threatened danger passed without giving the people any serious inconvenience. In 1705 an allotment of four hundred acres to the right was made, to be laid out west of the tract adjoining Canterbury which was in dispute with that town. The disputed tract was also laid out, Windham vigorously persisting in exercising possession of it. This disputed land was a gore piece lying between two lines which had been run as the eastern boundary of Windham. The west line was the line run by Bushnell according to the direction of Uncas, as the eastern boundary of Joshua's tract, and it followed the Nipmuck path, running a little west of south. The east line was a due south line from Appaquake, which had been run in 1691 by a committee appointed to run out the east line of the town. At that time there was no settlement claiming on the east of Windham, so the last mentioned line remained undisputed until 1700, when Plainfield, being laid out, claimed to the Nipmuck path. The settlement of what is now Scotland was at this time steadily increasing, and the value of land was rising. Saw mills and grist mills were erected on the powerful stream near Willimantic falls. But the

settlement at the "Crotch," which had promised to become the center, ceased to hold its precedence, and with the removal of the gatherings for public worship to other parts of the town, fell into comparative obscurity. Two of its settlers, Broughton and Howard, removed to other parts of the town, and their homesteads passed to other permanent residents. Mr. Whiting still occupied the house built for him, but no village grew up around it. A twenty-acre land division was laid out here in 1707.

In 1706 a division of four hundred acres to the right, in the northeast part of the town, was laid out. In January, 1709, David Canada, William Shaw, Robert Moulton and Edward Colburn, all of Salem, purchased one hundred acres of land on both sides of Little river, of William More, for £23, and began the settlement of a remote section, which is now included in the township of Hampton. A road passing through "the burnt cedar swamp," led from Windham to this settlement, and thence to the old Connecticut Path. That part of the town known as Windham Green soon became the chief center of business and public affairs. Here were gathered together the principal official men of the town, the meeting house, school, shops, training field and Lieutenant Crane's "ordinary," as the tavern was called.

By a land distribution in 1712 the northeast section of the town was opened for settlement. This section gained steadily in population and importance, notwithstanding its remoteness and difficulty of access. Its soil was good and land was cheap, its situation pleasant and the outlook commanding. This section, then called Canada Parish, now known as Hampton, soon became so strong as to warrant the organization of its people into a distinct society. This was done under an act of the assembly in 1717. In 1718 this parish was also granted liberty to organize and maintain a military company within its borders. The people of the parish were also empowered to levy an annual tax for the parish expenses, of ten shillings on every hundred acres of unimproved land lying within its borders. This was strongly objected to by the Windham proprietors living in other parts of the town who owned land in this section. Their objections, however, were over-ruled by the assembly, but they nevertheless caused a great deal of trouble to the new society in collecting such taxes.

About the year 1725 the population of the Windham town was rapidly increasing. So great was the increase in Canada

parish that a full military company was formed there, with Stephen Howard for captain, Nathaniel Kingsbury for lieutenant, and Samuel Gardner for ensign, and sixty privates between the ages of sixteen and sixty. Schools were also provided there and selectmen, surveyors and other officers were chosen for that section, so that the parish was every way well established and accommodated, and its inhabitants only needed to repair to Windham Green for town meetings. The society had been granted respite from paying taxes toward the general expenses of the colony for four years, in accordance with the usual custom of dealing with young organizations. But drought, short crops and other discouragements prompted the Canada people to ask the further favor of the assembly in this direction. In response that body granted "one year and no more," after which the society was expected to pay its share of the common expenses.

During the early half of the last century the town grew apace. Settlement at Scotland progressed as did also that at Windham Green. A court of probate was established here in October, 1719, for the towns of Windham, Lebanon, Coventry, Mansfield, Canterbury, Plainfield, Killingly, Pomfret and Ashford, and this added much to its business and importance. Captain John Fitch, already the honored town clerk of Windham, was appointed the first judge of probate, still retaining, however, his clerkship. In 1721 the town street was widened to eight rods from the southeast corner of Deacon Bingham's house-lot to the northeast corner of Gentleman Mitchell's house. A new pound was built near the meeting house. The population of the town had now increased so that a second military company was organized, with Eleazer Carey for captain, Edward Waldo for lieutenant, and Nathaniel Rudd for ensign. Jeremiah Ripley was then lieutenant of the first company.

The sons of the first settlers were now active in public affairs. Jonathan Huntington, son of Joseph, was practicing medicine, the first regular physician of Windham town. His brother Joseph had married Elizabeth, daughter of Joshua Ripley. Joshua Ripley, Jr., married a daughter of John Backus. John Backus, Jr., married a daughter of Mr. Whiting. Jonathan Crane's son Isaac, married Ruth Waldo, of Scotland. Among the new inhabitants of Windham was Thomas Dyer, who removed hither in 1715, when twenty-one years of age, married Lydia, daughter of John Backus, was first a shoemaker

and farmer, but soon engaged in public affairs and became one of the most prominent and wealthy citizens of the town. Eleazer Carey, nephew of Deacon Joseph Carey, removed to Windham in 1718. Deacon Joseph died in 1722.

John and Samuel Abbe were among the very early settlers of this town, and the name has been a prominent, influential and respected one in the subsequent history of the town. Through the male and female branches the blood has been widely disseminated, and is diffused through almost the entire range of Windham families. It is supposed that they came from Wenham, Mass., their ancestors having come from the county of Norfolk, England. John purchased of Lieutenant Exercise Conant the seventh home-lot at Windham Centre with a house on the west side of the town street and the thousand-acre right belonging to it, July 3d, 1696, all for seventy pounds in silver. He was admitted an inhabitant December 9th of the same year, and was one of the original members of the Windham church, organized in 1700. He died suddenly December 11th of the same year. Samuel Abbe, brother of the last mentioned, bought of Benjamin Howard of Windham, for £22, 10s., one half an allotment of land—a five hundred acre right—being number two at the Centre, with half the house, etc. He was admitted an inhabitant December 21st, 1697, and became the ancestor of the most numerous branch of the Windham Abbes, and all of the name now living in Windham or vicinity are descended from him. He died at Windham in March, 1698. One of his female descendants, Rachel Abbe in 1738-9 married General Samuel McClellan, and so became the great-grandmother of the late General George B. McClellan, of national renown. Paul and Philip Abbot came from Andover, Mass., and settled here, in the section of the town now Hampton, about 1722. Their descendants have been largely involved in the history of this town. Joseph Allen, the ancestor of representatives of the same name still living in this town and Scotland, bought land in this town, now Scotland, January 13th, 1731. Samuel Ashley in April, 1717, purchased two hundred acres of John Fitch in the northeast part of Windham, on both sides of Little river. This homestead farm is in the North Bigelow district in Hampton, and has remained in the family ever since. Jonathan Babcock was probably the second permanent settler of that portion of Windham which is now included in the village of Willimantic. He was

the common ancestor of most of the Coventry and Mansfield Babcocks. He bought the thousand-acre right which had been laid out by Captain John Mason and had passed through several hands previous to his purchase in 1709. The home farm, containing 154 acres, had been laid out on this right, April 17th, 1706. It lay just beyond the western limits of the borough of Willimantic, near the village cemetery, and the first house erected upon it was probably the second one built in Willimantic. Babcock was admitted as an inhabitant in 1711. William Backus settled in Windham as early as 1693. His father, Lieutenant William Backus, was one of the original Norwich legatees of Joshua, and had three of the thousand-acre shares, one of which he gave to his son William, of whom we are speaking. The home lot was number seven, at Windham Centre. It was in the center of the present village of Windham. One acre of it was purchased, January 30th, 1700, by Reverend Samuel Whiting and Ensign Jonathan Crane, and presented by them to the town for a "Meeting Plot or Common." This was the original "Windham Green." Many of the descendants of this settler still remain. Deacon John Baker, probably son of Samuel Baker of Hull and Barnstable, came to Windham with his sons Samuel and John (as is supposed), at some time before 1746, and located in that part of Windham now the south part of Scotland. When the descendants had become somewhat numerous the place where the families settled was called "Baker Town."

In 1726 the courts of the new county of Windham were held in this town. Being thus made the shiretown its prosperity received a fresh impetus. The growth of the village at Windham Green was especially quickened. The court house and jail were soon erected, with stores, taverns and numerous private residences, and much business, private as well as public, centered here. A grammar school, authorized by the general court, was established after some delay. Improvements were also in progress throughout the town. Ichabod Warner, in 1727, was allowed to make a dam across Pigeon Swamp brook, and John Marcy and Seth Palmer to make one on Merrick's brook. The first dam was built across the Willimantic the same year, near the site of the present stone dam of the Linen Company. The Iron Works bridge was also erected. The forge and the iron works were at that time in operation, but from the frequent change of owners

we judge that they were not very successful. Badger soon sold his share to Ebenezer Hartshorn, son of Thomas, the first Willimantic mill owner. Hartshorn conveyed it to Joshua Ripley, and he to Thomas Dyer, together with the adjacent dwelling house, May 27th, 1731. Dyer retained it till 1735, and then sold out to Hathaway, one of the founders of the company. These Willimantic Iron Works were maintained many years, and employed a number of laborers, but were never very thriving. The privilege occupied so early by Thomas Hartshorn was made over by him to his son Ebenezer, of Charlestown, who in 1729 sold the grist mill, saw mill, water privilege and forty-acre lot to Joseph Martin of Lebanon, for £410. Thomas Hartshorn, the first settler of Willimantic, then purchased a house of Ebenezer Jennings, and removed to Windham Centre. An early settler in this vicinity, not previously recorded, was Stephen, son of the Captain John Brown, who received a thousand-acre right from Captain Samuel Mason in 1677. The home lot pertaining to this right was laid out in 1706, abutting southeast on Willimantic river, near the northern boundary of the town, and was improved and occupied prior to 1720, by Stephen Brown.

The Scotland settlement was rapidly growing in strength, and with its growth developed the desire to become a distinct society. Ecclesiastical organization was the basis of civil organization, and the Scotland settlers as early as 1726 began to discuss the question of being independent of the other part of the town. In May, 1732, that part of the town was endowed with society privileges by act of the general court. Further particulars concerning it will be found in connection with the history of the town of Scotland.

The growth of the town required an enlargement of the number of town officers. In 1746 there were chosen a town clerk and treasurer, five selectmen, three collectors of town rates, four constables, six grand jurors, seven listers, four branders, three leather sealers, six fence viewers, eight tithing men and ten surveyors. Penalties at this time were extremely severe. Heavy fines, whippings and imprisonment were administered for slight offenses. Those unable to pay fines and lawful debts were often bound out as servants. In one case a year's service satisfied a judgment of £23. In another case it took five and a half years to satisfy a debt of £50. Another was bound servant for eight years for a debt of £120.

An intimation of the progress of education in the town is furnished us in the records of 1750, which tell us that a good grammar school was ordered to be kept the whole of every year "by a master able and sufficient for that purpose." This school was moved about from one society to another, each of the three societies in the town being entitled to have the school kept within its bounds during a portion of the year, corresponding to the proportion of money contributed by it to the support of the school, the basis of both being their lists of property valuation.

Jonathan Trumbull was judge of the probate district of Windham in 1746. John Ripley was chosen town treasurer in 1750. Samuel Gray succeeded Eliphalet Dyer as town clerk in 1755. A receiver of provisions for the colony tax, an excise collector and a packer of tobacco were now added to the town officers. The deputies sent by Windham to the general court between 1746 and 1760 were Thomas Dyer, Eleazer Cary, Jabez Huntington, Eliphalet Dyer, Jonathan Huntington, Nathaniel Skiff, Jedediah Elderkin, Nathaniel Wales, Thomas Stedman, Jonathan Rudd, Joseph Kingsbury, Samuel Murdock and Samuel Gray.

Among the tavern keepers scattered over the town about the middle of the last century were James Brewster, David Ripley, John Backus, Eleazer Fitch, Isaac Warner, Benjamin Lathrop and Isaac Parish. The social life of the town was said to be at that time very hilarious and enjoyable. Nearly all the families in the town were connected by intermarriage, and the most friendly and open intercourse was maintained. A free and generous hospitality prevailed among all classes. Merry-makings of every description were frequent. The residents of Windham Green were especially noted for love of fun and frolic, bantering and jesting. Traditions of these golden days represent Windham with her two parishes like Judah and Israel in the days of Solomon—"many as the sand which is by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking, and making merry."

During this period the growth and prosperity of Windham was marked. Even by contemporary judges it was estimated to surpass in prominence, and rapidity of growth and commercial activity, every other inland town in the colony. About 1760 it had four well trained military companies, four meeting houses, the county buildings, a number of stores and taverns, and many handsome private residences. The following list of town officers for the year 1760 will be of interest, both in showing

the number of officers required by the town government and the men who were in active life at the time to fill these offices: Doctor Joshua Elderkin, moderator; Samuel Gray, town clerk (chosen first in 1755 in place of Eliphalet Dyer, who had gone into the army, and retained in office more than thirty years); Captain Samuel Murdock, George Martin, Captain Henry Silsby, Samuel Webb, Lieutenant Prince Tracy, selectmen; Hezekiah Manning, Paul Hebard, Abiel Abbott, constables and collectors of town rates; Joshua Reed, Hezekiah Huntington, Nathaniel Lord, John Manning, grand jurymen; William Warner, Nathaniel Wales 2d, Nathaniel Warren, John Clark, Joseph Burnham, Nathan Luce, Joseph Manning, tithing-men; Benjamin Lathrop, Jonathan Babcock, James Flint, Jonathan Burnap, Nathaniel Mosely, Andrew Burnham, Joseph Woodward, listers; Edward Brown, Ebenezer Fitch, Ebenezer Bingham, John Bass, Isaac Andrus, Gideon Hebard, Thomas Tracy, Samuel Murdock, Nathaniel Huntington, Daniel Martin, Jeremiah Clark, Zebadiah Coburn, Stephen Park, Jeremiah Utley, William Holt, Josiah Hammond, Simon Wood, Joshua Farnham, John Manning, Joseph Woodward, Richard Kimball, Jonathan Luce, Joseph Ginnings, highway surveyors; Samuel Webb, Edward Brown, William Durkee, Isaac Ringe, John Webb, David Ripley, fence viewers; Hezekiah Huntington, John Fuller, Elisha Palmer, Jr., Eleazer Palmer, branders and tollers; Edward Brown, Isaac Ringe, Reuben Robinson, leather sealers; Joseph Huntington, Joseph Sessions, Elisha Palmer, Jr., pound keepers; Joseph Huntington, Jeremiah Durkee, Joseph Manning, packers; Samuel Gray, town treasurer; Elijah Bingham and Thomas Tracy, to take care of the town bridge; James Flint, receiver of provision paid for discharge of colony tax; John Abbe, collector of excise; Hezekiah Manning and Shubael Palmer, surveyors and packers of tobacco.

In the revival of business following the close of the French war, Windham actively participated. Some enterprising local merchants opened commercial exchange with the West Indies, and by this means a market was provided for the products of the town. Under this stimulus much attention was given to wool growing, the culture of hemp, flax and tobacco, and the making of cheese and butter. Great flocks of sheep and herds of cattle ranged over Windham pastures and commons. Wheat and other cereals were extensively grown and exported, and so

the agricultural prosperity of the town continued until the foreign trade was choked by English exactions. Then the Windham people turned their energies to manufactures. John Brown of Willimantic, in addition to other branches of business, manufactured potash and refined saltpetre. Ezekiel Cary carried on his trade as tanner and currier in this vicinity. Colonel Elderkin, among his other avocations, interested himself in silk culture, and set out a fine orchard of mulberry trees in the south part of Windham. His efforts reached a moderate degree of success, and he was able to make a strong, coarse silk, which was used for handkerchiefs and vestings.

Through the gloomy days of the revolution Windham shared the hardships and burdens common to all the towns of the county. From her prominent position as the shiretown of the county, she saw much of the military activity and public demonstrations of the people, not only of this town but of other neighboring towns; and bravely did the people of the town of Windham maintain their prominent position as the banner town of the county. The conditions of the war have been so fully reviewed as to the whole county that it seems unnecessary to go over the ground as to the details of this particular town. After the war was over, and when the federal constitution was presented to the people for adoption, Windham, having appointed a day for its special consideration, after a lengthy and able discussion of the question, resolved that the proposed constitution, being a subject to be acted upon by a state convention, it was not proper for the town to pass any vote upon it. There were during several years succeeding the war many returned soldiers about town destitute of employment, and many idlers hanging about the village without regular business, depending mostly upon jobs at court sessions, and the town considered it necessary to instruct its selectmen "to attend vigilantly to the laws respecting idleness, bad husbandry and tavern haunting, and see that the same be carried into effectual execution against such of the inhabitants of the town as shall in future be guilty of a breach of said law." With the revival of business and the improvement of finances this charge became less needful. The pressure of English restriction having been removed, the various industries initiated in Windham before the war were now resumed with redoubled spirit. Great attention was given to stock raising and dairy manufactures. A large surplus of beef and pork was barreled

on the farms for market, and cheese became so plentiful that "a speculator could sometimes buy a hundred thousand pounds in a neighborhood." Wool was produced in considerable quantities, and many of the industrious women of the town found profitable employment in knitting stockings and mittens, which found their way to the New York market. It is estimated that this industry annually brought several thousand dollars into the town. As an instance of the business of importance carried on at Windham may be mentioned the drug business established by Doctor Benjamin Dyer, who claimed to have the largest assortment of goods in that line to be found in eastern Connecticut. Among his stock might be found at one time a hundred and fifty pounds of wafers, an article which was in every day use at that time, but now almost unknown. His trade extended to all the physicians in the surrounding country. At one time he was accustomed to import goods directly from London. Manufactures were also progressing. Up to January 1st, 1795, the people were supplied with mail from Norwich, but on the date mentioned a post office was opened at Windham Green, John Byrne being postmaster. Residents of all the neighboring towns now received mail through this office. Letters for Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Hampton, Mansfield, Killingly, and even distant Thompson, were advertised in the *Windham Herald*, which had been started in 1791, and was published by the postmaster.

Thus for many years Windham maintained her position of prominence among Windham county towns; but in 1820 the courts were transferred to Brooklyn, as being a more central point in the county. This was not done without many years' effort and agitation of the question. As early as 1817 public meetings were held and arguments presented for and against different sites. The question was referred to a committee, and upon their report the assembly, May 29th, 1819, provided that as soon as a court house and jail should be erected in Brooklyn, without being any direct tax upon the county, and the buildings approved by the judges of the county and superior courts respectively, the courts should be held there, and at the same time the county buildings and land given up at the old county seat should be the property of the town of Windham. After considerable difficulty the necessary funds were raised and the buildings erected. They were approved by Chief Justice Stephen T. Hosmer and Judge John T. Peters, July 26th, 1820. Windham

made a strong effort to obtain half-shire privileges, but without success. Then the glory of Windham Green began to fade. In addition to the loss of all the patronage brought to it by the county business, the upspringing of manufacturing enterprises at Willimantic Falls was drawing business rapidly away from the old to a new center. The "Green," however, still kept its place as the head of the town, exercising its ancient sway over the border villages. Their growth at first added in some respects to the importance of the mother settlement. Proprietors and managers of Willimantic factories found pleasant homes at Windham Green, and Windham's six stores, bank, probate and town clerk's offices, accommodated all the villages. But this favor was only temporary, for the demands of the growing center of Willimantic were rapidly growing stronger and she could not long withstand them. Gradually her stores, public offices and business interests lapsed to the borough.

The original territory of Windham has been reduced several times. In 1703 nearly one-half of it was taken by the formation of Mansfield; in 1786 the northern part was taken by the formation of Hampton; in 1822 it was further reduced by the formation of Chaplin; and again in 1857 a large part of its remaining territory was taken to form the town of Scotland.

During the early years of this town, the boundary dispute with Canterbury on the east was one of the chief sources of annoyance. From time to time the vexed question broke out afresh, with ever-increasing bitterness and violence. Various legal decisions adjudged the disputed land to Canterbury, but were not recognized by Windham, who continued to retain it in possession, and kept an agent constantly in the field to defend the claim before the courts and the assembly. Another grievance was the diminution of its territory. The growing population could barely find room for the exercise of its energies upon its own soil. It is true there was land enough in the town, but much of it was unavailable hillsides, and still more was held by speculators, who then as now were a burden upon the development of the country. As a result, many of the young men, and even the growing families, emigrated to other localities where the conditions were more favorable. Many valued families were lost to churches and town by the rage for emigration. The children of Wyoming emigrants returned to Susquehanna valley, and gained possession of the lands claimed by their

fathers. Representatives of the old Windham families were scattered abroad in all parts of the opening republic. Thus matters continued for half a century, until the census disclosed an actual decline in the population, amounting in the decade between 1790 and 1800 to one hundred and twenty.

During the long and trying struggle of the revolution the old town of Windham acquitted herself nobly, fully sustaining her reputation for patriotic devotion, and even gaining many fresh laurels to add to her already honorable reputation. When the port of Boston was formally closed by the British parliament the people of this town in public meeting passed vehement expressions of the popular sentiment, asking the general assembly to appoint a day of fasting and prayer, that the impending calamities might be averted, calling also for a general congress of the colonies, and condemning the East India Company and their action in the East Indies in most extravagant terms, a single sentence of which we quote by way of illustration: "Let the Spanish barbarities in Mexico, and the name of Cortez sink in everlasting oblivion, while such more recent superior cruelties bear away the palm in the late annals of their rapine and cruelty." The sentiment of that meeting found expression in language so noble and pathetic that we cannot refrain from preserving some of its most striking passages. "Let us, dear fellow Americans, for a few years at least, abandon that narrow, contracted principle of self-love, which is the source of every vice; let us once feel for our country and posterity; let our hearts expand and dilate with the noble and generous sentiments of benevolence, though attended with the severer virtue of self-denial. The blessings of Heaven attending, America is saved; children yet unborn will rise and call you blessed; the present generation will, by future—to the latest period of American glory—be extolled and celebrated as the happy instruments, under God, of delivering millions from thralldom and slavery, and secure permanent freedom and liberty to America." At that meeting the people at once set about the practical demonstration of the sentiment which they so nobly uttered. Nine of their most respected citizens, from different parts of the town, viz.: Samuel Gray, Nathaniel Wales, Ebenezer Devotion, Ebenezer Mosely, Hezekiah Bissel, Joseph Ginnings, William Durkee, John Howard and Hezekiah Manning, were appointed a committee of correspondence, and authorized to procure subscriptions for the aid of Bos-

ton. Their appeal was most effectual. The fields and hills of Windham abounded with fine flocks of sheep, and the generous owners of them, whether rich or poor, were ready to contribute from them to make up a flock, which, within five days were on the road to Boston. With them was sent a letter, abounding in expressions of sympathy and encouragement, exhorting the people of Boston to stand true to the common cause of opposition against the tyranny of the British parliament. This was the first contribution from outside towns to reach Boston in that hour of emergency, and thus to Windham belongs the signal honor of leading the towns of New England in a voluntary movement for the relief of oppressed Boston, and indeed we might say taking the first practical steps in the direction of American independence. The town of Boston received the gift with gratitude, as will be seen from the following vote of the town passed July 4th, 1774:

"That the thanks of this town be, and hereby are given to our worthy friends, the inhabitants of the town of Windham, Connecticut colony, for the kind and generous assistance they have granted this town under its present distress and calamity in voluntarily sending two hundred and fifty-eight sheep as a present for the relief of the poor, distressed inhabitants of this place, who by a late oppressive and cruel act of parliament for blocking up the harbor of Boston are prevented getting subsistence for themselves and families."

In subsequent events the town of Windham participated with other towns of the county whose action in general has been already noticed in another chapter. In 1775, Windham was represented in the general congress at Philadelphia, by Colonel Dyer, and the action of that body was reviewed in town meeting December 5th, with the resulting vote "That this town does accept, approve and adopt the doings of the Continental Congress held at Philadelphia in September last, and agree and oblige ourselves religiously to keep and observe the same."

In 1777 the depreciation of the currency became a cause of great distress and general embarrassment, and regulations were attempted to stay the evils resulting therefrom. Windham voted March 24th, "That the inhabitants of this town will with one consent join with, and support to the utmost of their power in carrying into execution the laws made for regulating and affixing the prices of certain articles." The town also appointed

a committee to provide necessaries for the families of soldiers belonging to the town, who should go into any of the continental armies. In the spring of the following year the quota of this town was thirty-seven men. A bounty of six pounds was offered every man who would enlist for one year, and this in addition to a like sum offered by the state, and twelve pounds at the end of the year, besides forty shillings a month, "all in lawful money." To meet this outlay a rate of sixpence on all the polls and ratable estates was levied, to be paid in beef, pork, flour and other articles of produce.

Messrs. Elderkin and Gray had a powder mill in the town, and considerable supplies were manufactured here, and Hezekiah Huntington carried on the manufacture and repair of fire-arms at Willimantic, so it will be seen this town was an important factor among its sister towns in the great struggle. Town action was unanimous. No attempt was made to evade military or civil requisitions. The leaders kept their post and the people faithfully upheld them. That spirit of detraction and suspicion which often wrought such mischief in the patriotic ranks was here denounced and held in abeyance. Many anecdotes of remarkable performances are preserved, some of the more notable ones being ably told by Miss Fuller in another chapter of this work.

The "grand list" of this town in 1775 showed a valuation of thirty-two thousand two hundred and twenty-two pounds, ten shillings, seven pence. At that time the population consisted of three thousand four hundred and thirty-seven whites, and ninety-one negroes. Among this population were many honored names, but after the revolution they soon passed off the stage of action; having served their generation, they rested from their labors, while their works followed them. Among such examples were Colonel Ebenezer Gray, who after suffering greatly from disease contracted in the service of his country during the war, died in 1795, greatly respected and beloved. With other Windham officers he was an honored member of the Cincinnati Society, an organization having for its object the perpetuation of revolutionary friendships and associations, and the relief of widows and orphans of those who had fallen. His brother Thomas Gray, physician and merchant, died in 1792. Colonel Jedidiah Elderkin died in 1794, Deacon Eleazer Fitch in 1800, Elder Benjamin Lathrop in 1804 and Samuel Linkon, in the one hundred

and second year of his age, in 1794. Arthur Bibbins, another centenarian, though he had never known a sick day, was thrown from his horse, receiving injuries which caused his death, as we might say, prematurely, at the age of about one hundred and two years. Colonel Dyer, far advanced in years, but still hale and hearty, though retired from active participation in public affairs, might often be seen on Windham street raising his earnest protest against the alarming growth of radicalism, Jacobinism, infidelity and immorality. The new generation of men in active life taking the places of those honored veterans were Swift, the compiler of a famous "Digest of the laws of Connecticut;" lawyers Samuel Perkins, John Baldwin and David W. Young; Henry Webb, high sheriff; Charles Abbe, deputy sheriff; Phinehas Abbe, jailer; William Williams, chief judge of the county court, succeeded in 1806 by Thomas Grosvenor of Pomfret; and Samuel Gray, clerk of the courts. In the year 1800 the "grand list" of the town amounted to \$64,272.20, and the population was 2,644.

At Windham Green trade and business continued lively. The introduction of wagons with four wheels, which occurred about 1809, was an episode of wonderful interest. Roger Huntington owned the first one brought into town, and in September of the year mentioned he sent it up to Leicester, after a load of hand and machine cards. The lads who drove the horse, George Webb and Thomas Gray, found themselves the objects of great curiosity. People on the road everywhere stopped to look at them, and women and children flocked to the doors and windows as if a menagerie was passing. At Woodstock a crowd gathered around them to examine the new vehicle, that they predicted was destined to kill all the horses. One man had seen such a thing before, in Hartford, "and the horse drawing it was nearly fagged to death." When Leicester was reached at three o'clock, the wagon having been driven from Pomfret that morning, it was found that the horse was neither dead nor badly tired. On their return the next day 'Squire McClellan and other Woodstock people came out to see them, and as the horse had traveled over twenty miles with a load of cards and still appeared fresh, they decided that "perhaps such wagons might come into use after all."

Projects for village improvement excited much discussion in the early years of the present century. An Aqueduct Company

was formed in 1807, which by bringing water into the town street by means of pipes laid under the ground, accomplished a great public benefit. The men composing this company were Jabez Clark, Benjamin Dyer, Elisha White, John and Charles Taintor, John Staniford, Jr., Benjamin Brewster, Samuel Gray, John Byrne and Henry Webb. The consent of the town to needed improvements in this central district was often difficult to obtain, consequently an act of incorporation was asked for and granted, with power to enact by-laws within certain limits and to maintain a clerk. This was accomplished in 1814. Cattle and geese were now forbidden the roads, and encroachments upon the highways were removed. Ancient grants allowing tan-works, shops and houses on the public highways were revoked. Shad and salmon were up to this time quite numerous in the Willimantic river, and fishing for them was a much relished and exciting sport.

But a few years later the energies of Windham were concentrated upon the vital question of the county seat. When this was decided against her, and the courts removed to Brooklyn, still Windham contended for half shire privileges, and long and earnestly was this contest maintained. But at last Windham was obliged to yield to the inevitable, and accepting the situation she then turned her attention to new channels of enterprise and new sources of prosperity, which were in a short time destined to prove far more fruitful than that which she so reluctantly surrendered.

Roads and bridges were among the most important public improvements for which the people of the town had to provide. The Willimantic was a vigorous stream and the preservation of bridges over it required vigilance and outlay of money and labor. The Natchaug was also a difficult river to cross. At first no attempt was made to bridge it, but it was crossed by a ferry. One of the first acts of the town on this subject was passed in August, 1692, to the effect "That thirty-five acres of upland and five of meadow be sequestered upon the account of a ferry—land to be laid out between ye two riding-places." Twenty-five acres on the south side of the river, above the upper "riding-place" were ordered to be "measured and laid out to John Larrabee, upon condition that he keep the ferry seven years, with a good and sufficient canoe upon his own cost, and in case the towns shall see cause to make a boat, this likewise to be kept and main-

tained by him for the time aforesaid, his charge being two-pence a head for single persons; hors and man carried over in the boat—four-pence.” The conditions of the grant were probably carried out. But the ferry was probably not satisfactory. It was too slow, and its operation might be impeded or obstructed by too many circumstances. In February, 1695, a committee was appointed “to choose a place on the Natchauge river for a sufficient bridge suitable for man and beast to pass with a load, the selectmen to agree with men to make it, lay a rate for the same and find help to raise the bridge.” This bridge was built by Robert Fenton, for the sum of fourteen pounds.

Traveling facilities up to this time had received but little attention. This bridge had been built and the one road which passed over it had been laid out. The only other roads were those marked out by the first surveyors of the tract and as yet but vaguely defined and unimproved. The road from the Crotch or Centre to Windham Green, it is said, was never regularly laid out, but gradually developed from an original foot-path. Rude bridle-paths and foot-trails led from the settlements to the mills, the meadows, the cedar swamp and the outlying parts of the town.

In 1713 the highway surveyors were ordered to portion out the town for convenience in mending highways. Joseph Dingley was appointed “to call out the inhabitants east of the Willimantic and north from meeting house;” Stephen Tracey to call out those who dwelt west of the Willimantic and Shetucket; John Burnap and John Bemis were to warn all who lived east from John Ormsbee’s, the whole length and breadth of the tract; while to Richard Abbe was assigned “all south of meeting house.” Liberty was also given to Plainfield proprietors “to join their field with that of proprietors south and west of Shetucket river, so that the highway by that river to the mill and that over the upper riding-place to Norwich might be pent-ways—provided Plainfield makes and maintains good, handy gates.”

In 1746 the matter of the public highways appears to have fallen into neglect. In that year Isaac Burnap and Joseph Huntington were appointed a committee to provide suitable accommodations for all the people of the town to travel “to the several places of public worship.” The bridge across the Shetucket, between Windham and Lebanon, which had for many years been maintained by private enterprise, was consigned to the care of

Windham in 1735, by an act of the assembly. Robert Hebard, Jr., was chosen by the town to inspect and take care of it.

The burden of bridge making, always heavy in Windham, was greatly augmented by the increase of travel consequent upon the popular emigration to Wyoming and other new sections of the country. An extraordinary flood and great accumulation of ice in 1771 demolished and carried away nearly every bridge in the whole county, making a clean sweep of the Natchaug, Willimantic and Shetucket. As these bridges were upon public highways much frequented by trains of emigrants traveling from other towns of this colony, as well as Rhode Island, to parts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and New York, the authorities of this town refused to reconstruct them without aid from other quarters. Several roads were thus rendered impassable, travelers were compelled to go many miles out of their way to find suitable fording places, and were then often flung from their horses and placed in imminent danger of drowning. Complaints were laid before the general assembly in regard to the refusal of Windham to rebuild her bridges. In answer the town replied that within a few years five large bridges had been built at an expense of £800, all of which had been swept away by the floods; that the floods seemed to be increasing in frequency and force, and that these bridges were more for the accommodation of other towns than Windham. Relief was therefore petitioned. This, however, was denied, and the town was ordered to rebuild and maintain a bridge over the Shetucket on the road from Windham to Hartford, known as the Old Town bridge, and another over the Willimantic called the Iron Works bridge. Mansfield was directed to rebuild the bridge over the Natchaug. In 1774 the town of Windham was ordered to build and maintain a bridge over the Shetucket upon a road lately laid out to New Hampshire, to accommodate the travel to the new college in Hanover.

About the beginning of the present century considerable attention was renewed in behalf of the improvement of highways. The town was divided into districts for the purpose, these districts being made identical with the school districts, and authority was obtained to levy a tax to keep the roads in order. The organization of turnpike companies now began to agitate the public mind. The Windham Turnpike Company was organized in 1799, for the purpose of constructing a turnpike from Plain-

field to Coventry, past Windham court house. The original members of the company were Jeremiah Ripley, Timothy Larrabee, Moses Cleveland, Luther Payne and James Gordon, the charter being granted to them and their associates. This turnpike became a part of the great thoroughfare between Hartford and Providence. Efforts were made by the town to compel this company to lay its road over the Shetucket where the bridge was already standing, so as to place upon the company the burden of maintaining the bridge to the relief of the town, but a new crossing was determined upon by the company, and the old town bridge was in 1806 abandoned. The Windham and Mansfield Turnpike Society was incorporated in 1800, having for its object the opening of a turnpike from Joshua Hide's dwelling house in Franklin to the meeting house in Stafford, connecting with a turnpike leading from New London and Norwich. The leading men in this enterprise were Timothy Larrabee, Charles Taintor, Eleazer Huntington and Roger Waldo. Some other turnpike projects were opposed by this town with such energy that they were abandoned, or at least diverted from the designed course. A proposed turnpike from the Massachusetts line to New London was projected to run through Scotland parish, but this town opposed it so vigorously that it was laid out further eastward. Another road was planned to run from Woodstock through Ashford and Mansfield to Windham court house, but this also was defeated by Windham. The town, however, manifested a favorable spirit toward its local roads and bridges. At the request of Joseph Skiff and others, the Horseshoe bridge was taken under the charge of the town, and two hundred dollars were appropriated from its treasury for reducing the hills and mending the road from Scotland meeting house to Jared Webb's.

Still, as the years advanced, additional responsibilities forced themselves upon the town, in the line of road and bridge maintenance. Five great bridges, requiring constant supervision and frequent repairs or renewal, were not sufficient to meet the wants of the growing communities. The growing village around Taintor & Badger's paper mill required a new bridge and a better road to Willimantic. A new turnpike to Killingly, and other roads, were demanded. The petition for a bridge and road from the paper mill, referred to above, headed by John Taintor, was opposed by a committee appointed for the purpose in 1815, but without avail, and in 1818 the selectmen were authorized to

contract for the building of Horseshoe bridge over the Natchaug river on the road leading to the paper mill. The six bridges thus maintained at the expense of the town were placed in charge of overseers, as follows: Manning's bridge, Nathaniel Wales; Newtown bridge, Zenas Howes; the Iron Works bridge, Alfred Young; the Horseshoe bridge, Waldo Cary; Badger's bridge, Edmond Badger; the Island bridge, Joshua Smith. A few years later two new bridges over Merrick's brook were granted to Scotland; one near John Burnett's house, called Church bridge, and the other near Zaccheus Waldo's mill. Willimantic manufacturers in 1826 petitioned for roads and bridges to accommodate more fully the needs of their growing business, but for a time such matters were compelled to wait while the entire energies of the town were engaged in the contest for the court house. But after that absorbing question was decided they were able to gain a hearing. A new bridge was built to accommodate the Windham Company, and the old public highway was widened and transformed into Main street of the village of Willimantic, and along its sides buildings for stores and other public uses soon sprang up.

CHAPTER XV.

THE TOWN OF WINDHAM (Concluded).

Employing a Minister.—Building a Church.—Withdrawal of Mansfield.—Successive Pastors.—The Separate Movement.—Religious Declension.—The Father of President Cleveland.—Gradual Dissolving of the Town Church into the Windham Centre (local) Church.—Schools of the Town.—Early Newspaper.—Old-time Taverns.—Manufacturing Begun.—Gunpowder, Silk and Paper.—Windham Centre.—Cemetery.—Congregational, Episcopal and Baptist Churches.—South Windham.—Manufacturing Enterprises.—Congregational Church.—North Windham.—Manufactories.—Church, Cemetery and School.—Biographical Sketches.

THE civil and ecclesiastical association of the people kept pace, each with the other, so uniformly that it is hard to tell definitely which one took the lead. We have endeavored to notice in the preceding chapter the founding and growth of the town of Windham in its civil capacity. We shall now turn our attention to a brief review of its founding and growth as an ecclesiastical body. Having held its first town meeting June 12th, 1692, the town was not complete until a Gospel minister was settled among the people. This, in fact, was one of the most conspicuous conditions of the charter granted by the general court of Connecticut on the 12th of May, preceding, the language of which ran as follows: "And the inhabitants are obliged to improve their utmost endeavor to procure and maintain an able and faithful ministry in the place, and bear all other town charges as the law directs."

In pursuance of this requirement the town, at its first town meeting, after asking advice of a Mr. Fitch, probably Reverend James Fitch, appointed a committee to go to Milford and arrange, if possible, for the services of Reverend Samuel Whiting as a minister to the town. Pending such negotiations, religious services were conducted by Mr. Jabez Fitch, at his own house. After repeated applications Mr. Whiting was induced to accept the proffered position, and began his ministry on the first day of January, 1693. In appropriate harmony with the circumstances

he began on the first day of the week, month and year by preaching from the first verse of the first book of the Bible. His stipulated salary for the first half year was twenty pounds in provision pay and four pounds in silver. Collectors were duly authorized by the town to collect the rate "and if need be sue or distrain for it." His labors seem to have proved satisfactory, and during the year it was determined to offer him, as a more permanent inducement to remain with them, an allotment through the several divisions of land that should be afterward made, and fifty pounds salary, and to build for him a house two stories high and eighteen feet square, "said house in capacity like Joseph Dingley's, provided he would stay four years." Mr. Whiting accepted the offer. In 1694 it was decided that services should be held three Sabbaths at the Hither Place and two Sabbaths at the north end of the town. Mr. Whiting was a young man, a son of Reverend John Whiting, of Hartford, and as yet unmarried. In 1694 the town agreed, among other encouraging inducements, to increase his salary if he would continue, so as to make it sixty pounds a year for three years, seventy pounds a year for the next three years, and eighty pounds a year for the following three years.

Up to this time the town had no meeting house. Early in 1695 an attempt was made to find a place to erect such a building. A committee was instructed to measure the town from north to south, "where the path goes, and so to find the senter for meeting house." Two settlements, "four miles apart and with a bad river between," were to be accommodated. The spot determined upon as most desirable was at the Crotch or Horseshoe, where a little settlement was then just commencing. Its prospective selection as the site of the meeting house drew other settlers to it and increased its importance. Here the minister's house was built in 1696, and here also divine service was held during the following winter, in the house of Goodman More. This arrangement was adopted in compliance with the request of Mr. Whitney. The ancient "Crotch" in later years is known as "Brick-top."

The people of the southeast quarter objected to building a meeting house at the intermediate point, believing that they were able, or soon would be, to build a house of worship in their own locality. They therefore favored a division of the town into two parishes, at least as far as the erection of houses of wor-

ship was concerned, even though they should both unite in the support of the same minister. But the people of the northern settlement, who were not as strong as the former, desired to build the meeting house at the Crotch. The town, however, voted, January 14th, 1697, that each locality might build a meeting house as soon as it felt strong enough to do so, but not to be exempt from its obligations to the town until they should be set apart in two distinct societies. But after much discussion of the matter, a committee appointed for the purpose decided in December, 1697, that the town should not be divided, but that the original design of building a meeting house at the Crotch should be carried forward. Before the work was begun, however, the question was again opened, and discussion followed which resulted in an agreement, March 16th, 1699, that each settlement should build a meeting house as soon as it could, at its own charge, the house to be large enough to accommodate the whole congregation, and that services should be conducted in each place one-half the time between the middle of March and the 25th of December, for seven years, after which each place should endeavor to support a minister by itself. By authority of the general assembly, a church was now formally organized. The organization took place at what was known as the Dingley House, a mile north of Windham Green, December 10th, 1700, the following being the names of original members, as far as the list can be read, names of two males and ten females being now illegible: Samuel Whiting, Thomas Bingham, Joseph Carey, Joshua Ripley, Thomas Huntington, John Backus, Joseph Huntington, Jeremiah Ripley, Jonathan Crane, Joseph Hebbard, Samuel Abbe, John Abbe, Robert Hebbard, Mary Hebbard, Hannah Abbe and Rebecca Huntington. The deacons at this time chosen were Thomas Bingham, Joseph Carey and Nathaniel Wales. Mr. Whiting had been ordained on December 4th, 1700, and the thousand-acre right reserved by the legatees for the minister was soon afterward made over to him, "for his faithful labors eight years in the work of the ministry."

January 30th, 1700, the front part of William Backus's home lot at the southeast quarter was purchased for a meeting house plat or common. This was the nucleus of Windham Green, and the first meeting house was soon after erected upon it. This was completed and opened for worship in April, 1703. The building was "clabboarded from sill to girths" around the in-

side, and furnished with a pulpit and seats and pews. Then a committee was appointed to designate the particular places in the house to be occupied by the several attendants upon service: "Deacon Bingham in the right hand seat below the pulpit, and his wife in the pue answerable thereto; Deacon Cary in the left hand, and his wife in the pue adjoining; Joshua Ripley and Lieutenants Fitch and Crane in the foremost pue; Abraham Mitchell at the head of the first, and Josiah Palmer of the second seat, with their wives against them—and the remainder of the congregation in due order." The Green around the meeting house was now enlarged and appropriated; the town voting December 23d, 1702, "That the land east from Goodman Broughton's, south from Thomas Huntington's, north of the road by Goodman Broughton's, extending to three or four acres of land onto Stony Plaine, should lay common to perpetuity."

The division of the town having been effected, the Windham church prospered and rapidly increased in strength. The Mansfield people, not finding it convenient to support a minister by themselves, continued to worship with the Windham people until the year 1710. After the adoption of the Saybrook platform in 1708, as the established form of church government in Connecticut, Windham, by provisions therein contained, was included in the North Association of Hartford county. Mr. Whiting continued to retain the affection of his people, neither his land operations nor his interest in public affairs interfering in the least with his ministerial duties and usefulness. As his family increased his salary was proportionately enlarged, although the yearly allowance of eighty cords of wood which had been given him was gradually reduced to forty, each man being required to provide according to his list or forfeit six shillings a cord. This allowance was finally superseded by a ten pound rate for ministerial fire-wood. The meeting house was supplied in 1708, by vote of the town, with the luxury of a "pulpit cushion." During the same year a committee was also appointed "to agree with workmen to finish the galleries, repair the underpinning and the breaches in the seats."

The growth of the society demanded more room, and in 1713 it was resolved to enlarge the meeting house, but before the work was done it was decided to build a new house altogether on the site of the first. Deacons Cary and Bingham, and Lieutenant Crane were a committee to conduct the work, which was speedi-

ly accomplished. The house was much larger than the former one, and on its completion the usual designation of seating places was secured. Messrs. Ripley and Fitch were honored with the chief seat in front. The venerable Joseph Dingley was allowed to sit in the pulpit because of his deafness. Mr. Whiting was allowed to build at his own expense such a pew as he saw fit for his family to occupy "by the east door." Several of the young men, Joseph Crane, Josiah Bingley, Zebulon Webb, Jeremiah Ripley, Jr., Jonathan Huntington, David Ripley and Ebenezer Wales, were allowed to build a pew for themselves, probably in the gallery, on condition "that if they removed out of the pue they should deliver it to the town without demolishment." To modify the temperature of the unwarmed house as far as possible, it was ordered that in cold and windy weather the windward doors should be kept shut, leeward ones only opened. Two pounds, provision pay, were allowed annually for sweeping the meeting house.

In 1720 and 1721 the church enjoyed a season of revival, a circumstance quite remarkable by contrast with the generally cold condition of surrounding churches at that time. Residents of neighboring towns were drawn to the meetings, and young men were converted who were among the most prominent actors in the religious developments of a later period.

Mr. Whiting died suddenly, of pleurisy, while on a visit to Enfield, September 27th, 1725, being then in the fifty-sixth year of his age. He left a widow and thirteen children, the youngest, Nathan, then being but little more than a year old. The sudden death of their beloved pastor filled the people of Windham with mourning, and they appointed a day of special humiliation and prayer for guidance in the work before them of securing a minister to be his successor. The labors of the committee were successful in securing the services of Reverend Thomas Clap, of Scituate, Mass., a graduate of Cambridge in the class of 1722. After a trial of his gifts the town gave him a call, which was accepted, and he was duly ordained August 3d, 1726. The call to settlement offered him three hundred pounds for settlement and an annual salary of one hundred pounds and fire-wood. The church had received three hundred and eighty-three members during the ministry of Mr. Whiting, and had dismissed colonies to Mansfield and Windham Village (Hampton) and still numbered two hundred and sixty-four. The recent revival had

increased its strength and spirituality, and Mr. Clap began his ministry under the most favorable auspices. New deacons were now chosen—Eleazer Cary, Joseph Huntington, Nathaniel Wales and Abel Bingham, with whom were also elected to act in advisory counsels three others, Joshua Ripley, John Fitch and Jonathan Crane.

The church was now prosperous. Mr. Clap developed remarkable administrative capacities, and brought all ecclesiastical affairs under stringent laws and discipline. In 1728 it was voted, "That all baptismal persons have a right to hear confessions for public scandal, and that no such confessions shall be accepted unless made before the congregation on the Sabbath, or some public meeting wherein all baptized persons have warning to attend." These confessions were very frequent. The number of delinquents arraigned under the strict regimen of Mr. Clap was very large. Though not brilliant or eloquent, he was a forcible preacher, and greatly impressed the community by his earnestness and strength of character. He was married November 23d, 1727, to Mary Whiting, daughter of his predecessor. He was called from this field of labor to the presidency of Yale College, and the reluctant people allowed him to be dismissed from this pastorate, December 10th, 1739, and April 2d, 1740, he was installed as president of Yale. He had served Windham fourteen years. And in return for having taken their pastor from them, on whom a settlement had been made by the Windham people in expectation of his life services, the general assembly, in May, 1740, voted to reimburse Windham to the amount of three hundred and ten pounds, in the then depreciated currency of Connecticut, which was equal in value to about fifty-three pounds sterling.

Another pastor was now secured in the person of Reverend Stephen White, of New Haven, a graduate of Yale in the class of 1736. He was mild and gentle in character, and rather deficient in that administrative capacity which had been so marked in his predecessor. He nevertheless appears to have been acceptable to the people. A settlement of six hundred pounds, and an annual salary of two hundred pounds were given him, and he was ordained December 24th, 1740. The membership of the church was then two hundred and eighty-seven, and such was the excellent condition of the society that every head of a household was connected with the church, either by profession

of faith or by owning the covenant. Family prayer was observed in every household, and every child was consecrated by baptism. Profane swearing was but little known, and open violations of the Sabbath were very rare. Soon after his settlement Mr. White was married to Mary, daughter of Major Thomas Dyer. The management of ecclesiastical affairs by the civil town was no longer the custom, but an organized society, connected with the church, had control of its material affairs. The deacons then in service were Joshua Huntington, Ralph Wheelock, Eleazer Cary and Nathaniel Wales.

In the time of the great revival and the Separate movement, which took place soon after the settlement of Mr. White, the church of Windham received large accessions, and on the other hand suffered somewhat from the withdrawal of some to join in the Separate movement. During this period over one hundred members were received. A number of these converts a little later withdrew and organized as a Separate church in 1747, ordaining their brother, Elisha Marsh, as their pastor. It does not appear that this church was ever very thriving or vigorous. The mild temperament of the pastor prevailed among the church to restrain the more rigid disciplinarians from exercising their extreme authority toward the Separatists, and they apparently allowed the seceding brethren to retire without resistance. The Separate church, thus left to itself, without any breeze of opposition to fan its energies into a flame, soon fell to pieces. Its pastor became a Baptist, its more moderate members returned to their allegiance, while others were absorbed into the more vigorous churches of Mansfield and Scotland parish.

After order and the usual even tenor of life were restored the church began to consider the question of enlarging and rebuilding their house of worship. This work was begun about 1753, and completed in 1755, the new church being large and elegant, with a lofty and beautiful steeple, in which was hung the first church bell of Windham county. This latter accessory was purchased by a legacy of twenty pounds left for that purpose by Mr. Jonathan Bingham, who died in 1751, having already greatly aided and encouraged the erection of the new house of worship. It is also stated by Doctor Samuel Peters that this church had a clock in its steeple. Eighty members had been added to the church between 1746 and 1760. Mr. White was greatly respected for his amiability and uprightness of character, but had no

very marked influence upon the community. The senior deacons, Joseph Huntington and Ralph Wheelock, died in 1747 and 1748. Deacons Eleazer Cary and Ebenezer Wales died in 1757, and their places were filled by Joseph Huntington and Nathaniel Skiff. The latter died in 1761. Jonathan Martin and Elijah Bingham were chosen junior deacons in 1765.

Now, we are told, there followed a time of religious declension, which lasted for many years. During the period covering the revolution, and for several subsequent years, Universalism and infidelity had come in and drawn away multitudes from the religious faith of their fathers. A reaction seemed to have taken place. Free-thinking and free-drinking were alike in vogue, and a looseness of manners and morals had replaced the ancient Puritanic strictness. Any sect or church within the state was allowed the privilege of worshipping according to its own notions, but still the state insisted that every man should worship somewhere, or at least bear his part in maintaining some religious worship. The Saybrook Platform was dropped from the statute book in the revision of 1784, but the society organization was retained. Every man within the limits of a stated society was taxed for the support of its religious worship, until he lodged with the clerk of the society a certificate of membership in some other society.

The Reverend Stephen White died January 9th, 1793, in the seventy-fifth year of his age, closing with his life a pastorate of nearly fifty-three years. It is related of him that his gentle and lovely character, consistent Christian life, and faithful ministerial service, had won the regard of all "whose approbation was worth possessing." He was succeeded in the ministerial office by Elijah Waterman of Bozrah, who was ordained here October 1st, 1794. He at once devoted himself to his work with great earnestness, and by his faithful labors and pungent exhortations soon aroused a new religious interest in his church, which soon received encouraging accessions to its membership. He, like his predecessors, found a wife among his own people, Lucy, daughter of Shubael Abbe. Mr. Waterman was prominent in progressive movements in religious, educational and literary matters. Among other enterprises in the latter directions he collected materials for a history of Windham county, which materials, unfortunately, were in subsequent years allowed to become scattered. His pastorate however, was not altogether a

peaceful one. As might be expected, his vigorous crusade against vice and irreligion aroused against him a spirit of opposition, and some with whose unlawful sports he had interfered, and others whom his aggressiveness had offended, withdrew and organized an Episcopal society, thus evading the payment of rates for the support of Mr. Waterman. This weakened the finances of the society and made it difficult to raise the minister's salary. Added to this the society was still further weakened by the sudden death of Sheriff Abbe, one of its chief supporters, which occurred April 16th, 1804. In view of the circumstances Mr. Waterman was dismissed, at his own request, February 12th, 1805. Eighty-nine members had been admitted to the church during his pastorate, and two deacons had been elected, viz., Samuel Perkins, Esq., and Captain Eliphalet Murdock. Deacon Samuel Gray died in 1787; Deacon Jonathan Martin in 1795; and Deacon Elijah Bingham in 1798.

Reverend Mr. Andrews was ordained pastor of this church August 8th, 1808. He was a very serious and devout Christian, and was distressed and discouraged by the lack of religious earnestness among his people. To such an extent was he affected that he asked for dismission in 1812, and though at first opposed, he obtained it in the following year. He was succeeded by Reverend Cornelius B. Everest, who was ordained November 22d, 1815, and whose ministry happily allayed all storms and had a most invigorating and healthful influence. Many new members were added to the church. Mr. Everest was dismissed in 1827, after a peaceful and prosperous ministry. He was succeeded by Reverend R. F. Cleveland, whose ministry of three years was equally successful and acceptable. This church lost considerable of its strength by the withdrawal of members to form the church at Willimantic in 1828, among whom was Deacon Charles Lee. Deacon Thomas Welch was also dismissed about the same time, to unite elsewhere. Reverend J. E. Tyler of East Windsor, was ordained and installed October 11th, 1837. Abner Follet was chosen deacon in 1840.

Subsequent events have made it a matter of unusual interest that an additional word should be given to Reverend Richard Fally Cleveland, who was ordained here October 15th, 1829. He was a native of Norwich, Conn., and a graduate of Yale College. After remaining here three years he was dismissed in October, 1832. He was the father of ex-President Grover Cleveland, and

two of his children were born during his pastorate here. These were a daughter, Ann, now Mrs. Hastings of Ceylon, and a son, William, afterward a minister. During Mr. Cleveland's pastorate thirty-one persons were added to the church. He removed hence to Portsmouth, Va., and was also stationed at different times at Caldwell, N. J., and Fayetteville, N. Y. After his pastorate in Windham different ones occupied the field for short periods, but no pastor was settled until the installation of Mr. Tyler in 1837. He was the son of Reverend Bennet Tyler, D.D., president of East Windsor Seminary, also known as the Theological Institute of Connecticut. On account of failing health Mr. Tyler was dismissed at his own request December 2d, 1851. During his pastorate the church was removed from Court House square to the site at present occupied. The last sermon in the old church was given March 20th, 1848. The house was torn down and a new house built, some of the materials being used in the new building. Reverend George Ingersoll Stearns, a native of Killingly, was ordained here September 22d, 1852, and after a pastorate of nearly ten years he died here March 13th, 1862. Samuel Hopley began serving this church January 21st, 1864, and was dismissed January 26th, 1866. Hiram Day, the eleventh pastor of the church, followed him. He was settled May 23d, 1866, and resigned, his resignation being accepted March 24th, 1869. The next pastor, Adelbert Franklin Keith, was ordained and installed October 26th, 1870. During his pastorate the church was prosperous and the meeting house was enlarged by being cut in two and lengthened. A chapel was also built under his moving hand about 1874. He was dismissed June 29th, 1874. His successor, Reverend Frank Thompson, was installed June 8th, 1875. The church prospered during his pastorate, a revival occurring meanwhile, and about forty members were added during his pastorate. He was dismissed November 23d, 1880. The church was then a little more than three years without any regular pastor, being served by stated supplies. Reverend Frederick A. Holden was here from the spring of 1883 one year. Reverend William S. Kelsey, the present pastor, a graduate of the Hartford Seminary, was ordained May 27th, 1885. During his pastorate thus far sixty members have been added, twenty-two of which were added during the year 1888. The present membership is about one hundred and twenty. A disastrous fire, originating in the store of William Swift, which ad-

joined the church, occurred May 5th, 1886. The church was burned down. It was rebuilt on the same site without delay. The present handsome and commodious structure was dedicated June 16th, 1887.

Thus the institution which in 1693 was an essential and co-ordinate part of the town, and then included members of the whole body politic, is now a local institution known as the Congregational Church of Windham. From this, which may emphatically be called a "mother church," other churches have been formed as follows: Mansfield church, organized October 18th, 1710; Hampton church, organized June 5th, 1723; Scotland church, organized October 22d, 1735; "Chewink Plains" church, organized 1780, existed sixteen years, and after its dissolution thirteen members returned to Windham church; Willimantic church, organized January 22d, 1828, and South Windham church, organized December, 1888. The following is a list of the deacons of this church from 1700 down to the present time, with the dates when they were elected: Joseph Carey, Thomas Bingham and Nathaniel Wales, 1700; Abel Bingham, Joseph Huntington, Ralph Wheelock and Eleazer Carey, 1729; Nathaniel Wales, 1741; Ebenezer Wales, 1748; Joseph Huntington and Nathaniel Skiff, 1754; Jonathan Martin and Elijah Bingham, 1765; Samuel Gray, 1777; Eleazer Fitch and Hezekiah Bissel, 1787; Thomas Tileston, 1790; Samuel Perkins, 1796; Eliphalet Murdock, 1802; Charles Lee, 1815; Thomas Welch, 1824; Abner Follet, 1840; De Witt C. Lathrop, 1853; William Swift and Eliphalet Huntington, 1862, and Joseph B. Spencer and Casper Barstow at later dates.

In the early history of the town schools received less attention in Windham than might have been expected in a town of such prosperity and intelligence. "A school to be kept in Thomas Snell's house" appears to have been for some time the only provision made in that direction. The committee appointed to manage the schools may have ordered them in different neighborhoods, however. In 1711 the town voted to have no more school committees, but to leave the matter in the hands of the selectmen. In 1713 the town ordered two school houses, one to be eighteen feet square and set upon the Green, "not above twenty rods from the meeting-house;" the other sixteen feet square, to be set in the eastern part of the town. John Backus and James Badcock were chosen a committee to secure their

erection. The first was soon completed, but the other was delayed a year or two. The first reference to schools which we find on the records of the town was made in December, 1702, when the vote of the town directed the selectmen to agree with a schoolmaster or mistress—"scollars to pay what the rate falls short."

Thus schools were managed in a very imperfect way, with but little improvement for many years. Soon after the revolution, however, some efforts were made to raise the standard of public education. For a time an academy was maintained, with the learned Doctor Pemberton as its principal. Though at a later period, for lack of permanent funds, it was unable to retain so popular a teacher, yet it maintained a respectable standing, and was well sustained by Windham and its vicinity. Public schools were yet poor, but efforts were made for their improvement. In 1794 thirteen school districts were set off, each being designated, according to the custom of the time, by the name of some prominent resident. Thus they were numbered and named as follows: 1, Frederick Stanley's; 2, Solomon Huntington's; 3, Jabez Wolcott's; 4, Timothy Wales's; 5, Eliphallet Murdock's; 6, William Preston's; 7, Zebediah Tracy's; 8, Josiah Palmer's; 9, James Cary's; 10, Joseph Palmer's; 11, William Cary's; 12, John Walden's; 13, Zenas Howe's. Private schools were often sustained in different neighborhoods. Among other tutors who at times held sway in the academy were "Master" Abbott, Roger Southworth and Socrates Balcom. About 1825 the growth of Willimantic seemed to demand superior accommodation for its school, and a new brick school house was built. The heterogeneous collection of youthful representatives of different nations and ideas was, however, a hard school to govern, and the school committee, it is said, on one occasion sent expressly to Sterling for a schoolmaster with a will and a hand strong enough to keep the boys from cutting and marring the woodwork of the school house.

The town of Windham takes the lead in being the first in the county to send out that great modern educator, the newspaper. The first effort of this kind was made in 1790. During that year John Byrne, of Norwich, set up a printing press in the lower room of the court house in Windham Green, and early in the following year began the publication of *The Phenix or Windham Herald*. His office was now removed to a location just north

of the court house. The first issue was dated Saturday, March 12th, 1791. It was a modest little sheet, printed on coarse, bluish-gray paper, but in most respects, if not all, fully equal to the average newspaper of its day. General and foreign news was furnished with customary promptness—foreign news three months after date, congressional reports in ten or twelve days, and full reports of Connecticut elections three weeks after they took place. These, with advertisements, short moral essays, humorous anecdotes and occasional casualties, made up the table of contents. But few items of local events were printed. Meager as was the paper, it satisfied the public. It was accepted as the organ of Windham county, and in a few years was supported by some twelve hundred subscribers, being distributed in all directions by post riders.

We can hardly withdraw our gaze from the Windham of a century ago without noticing for a moment the taverns of the olden time, and some of the scenes of festivity and mirth for which they were famous. With the amount of business which came to the merchants and mechanics of Windham by reason of its prominent position, its taverns might well flourish. Nathaniel Linkon, John Flint, David Young, John Keyes and John Parish entertained the public in different parts of the town; Nathaniel Hebard, John Staniford and John Fitch performed similar offices on Windham Green. The "Widow Cary," later the wife of John Fitch, brought to her new home the jolly image of Bacchus, occupying a conspicuous perch on the sign-post of the "old Fitch Tavern." Travelers, court attendants and fellow townspeople found agreeable entertainment beneath his beaming countenance, as well as in the other village taverns, famed as they all were for their flow of wit and liquor, as well as for their more substantial fare. Many revolutionary veterans who resided in the vicinity were habitual frequenters of these resorts, and here fought over their battles, telling marvelous tales of hair-breadth escape and harrowing adventure. There were quaint old characters, whose odd sayings and doings furnished exhaustless merriment. There was one of whom it was said that he could not go past Hebard's tavern without stopping to get a drink of rum. A friend remonstrated with him, and finally made a bet with him that he could not do so. The old man took the bet, and bracing his nerves and muscles to an erect and dignified bearing, he walked triumphantly past the tavern.

He then returned to the tavern, saying to himself, "Now I'll go back and *treat Resolution*." Once, when in a bewildered condition, he wandered off into the fields and went to sleep, and on rising forgot to pick up his hat. A boy found it and brought it to him. But instead of manifesting any confusion, he blandly asked where he found it. The boy replied "In Mr. White's pasture, near the bars." With patronizing dignity the reply came: "Well, boy, go take it right back. That is the place where I keep it." Another old wag had a turn for rhyming. Meeting one day a rough looking countryman with tawny hair and beard, and butternut colored coat, riding on a sorrel nag, he flung up his hat at the sight and exclaimed: "Colt and mare, coat and hair, all compare, I swear!" Staniford's house was a great place of resort, an exchange place for all manner of quips, pranks and witticisms, each one striving to catch or out-do the other in a joke or exaggerated tale. We can preserve here but a single specimen of these old-time tavern stories. This is in relation to the well-known cold winter of 1779-80. Snow lay on the ground three feet on the level, as the story runs. On a certain day it began snowing very hard, flakes falling some of the time as large as small birds. All day snow fell rapidly, but during an hour and a half of the time it made depth an inch a minute. It was related that on a very cold Sunday of that winter one family went to meeting, two miles away, leaving meanwhile the big dinner pot on the fire filled with vegetables, boiling over a big fire of logs in the old fashioned fireplace. During their absence the kitchen door had blown open so as to let in a cold blast of air, and on their return they found the steam rising from the pot had formed a large inverted cone of solid ice upon the pot, while the contents were still boiling away within and the fire burning lustily below.

A large number of waiters, hostlers, drivers, purveyors and the like attendants, occupied at court times, had little to do but lounge around and tell stories during the remainder of the year. They hung about the taverns and stores, and added to the general merriment. Negro men and boys were very numerous, and made much sport for all classes with their droll mimicry and endless tricks and capers. Change of status made little difference to this class. A few went out into the world as freedmen,

but the larger number, even when set free, clung to their old masters and were always supported and cared for.

The great industry that has built up and given prosperity to the town of Windham is her manufacturing. The locality possesses remarkable facilities for this in the Natchaug and Willimantic rivers, which are here considerable streams and afford abundant power. The power thus offered by Nature was soon recognized by the early inhabitants, and they soon began to utilize it for such purposes as they wished to serve, and to such extent as their means were sufficient to make it available. Special favors were granted to such as would undertake to establish grist mills and saw mills in the early days of the settlement. In 1692 the grist mill was made a town charge throughout the town. Ginnings Hendee, Jeremiah Ripley and James Birchard were granted the privilege of the stream at Beaver brook for building a saw mill, with half a mile adjoining for timber and pasture, provided the mill was completed within one year, and when the mill should be abandoned the land should revert to the town. In the following year Jonathan Ginnings and the Ripleys were granted liberty to set up a saw mill at "No-man's-acre brook." In 1700 liberty to build a saw mill on Goodman Hebard's brook, and the privilege of the stream for damming or ponding was granted to several petitioners, with the privilege of taking any other stream if that should not prove satisfactory. The town miller was required to grind for the inhabitants of the town every Monday and Tuesday, and if more grain was brought than he could grind in those days he was to keep on until it was finished.

In February, 1706, the proprietors granted to Joseph Cary, John Backus, Joseph Dingley and John Waldo the privilege of the stream at Willimantic falls to build a mill or mills at one particular place, wherever they might choose, on the north side of the river, and to hold it as long as they and their heirs should maintain a good "sufficient" mill, with the privilege of raising a dam across the stream, also the improvement of forty acres of land near by, timber free, so long as the land should be left unfenced. This grant was not to exclude the proprietors from granting other sites to other parties for the water privilege, nor to obstruct highways, "nor damnify lots in ye Crotch."

Soon after the revolution Colonel Elderkin enlarged his or-

chard of mulberry trees, which he had started years before, and put forward the work of silk manufacture, turning out annually some ten or twelve thousand pounds of hosiery silk to meet the demands for fashionable long stockings. Handkerchief and vest patterns were also manufactured there "in considerable numbers." He procured a loom and weaver from Europe, and succeeded in fabricating sundry pieces of silk which furnished dresses for his daughters. He also expended much money and labor in constructing a dam and flouring works upon the Shetucket in South Windham. He also carried on a grist mill at the Frog Pond brook. Ezekiel Cary about this time carried on a tannery, which was supplied with water from the Willimantic river. Henry De Witt manufactured tacks out of such old scraps of iron as could be picked up about the town as of little value. The silk factory of Colonel Elderkin, after his death passed into the hands of Clark & Gray, and soon passed into the hands of Mansfield experimenters who were making great efforts to increase and improve silk manufacture. Machinery for picking, oiling and carding wool was erected at the mills of Clark & Gray, on the Falls of the Willimantic, by Cyrus Brewster. They were in operation as early as June 20th, 1806. The price then charged farmers and others for "breaking and carding, cash in hand," was seven cents a pound; for picking and oiling, two cents a pound, cash; or one cent more in either case where barter was desired. Similar machines were introduced in other towns about the same time. A great saving of labor to the farmer in preparing his wool for domestic use was effected, and an improved condition of the wool was secured. The most niggardly farmer, accustomed perhaps to work himself and his family to the bone rather than spend a penny, found that it was to his advantage to pay out money or barter for wool carding, while women everywhere exulted in the beautiful white, soft, clean, fleecy rolls, which made spinning and weaving a positive enjoyment.

About the same time, or possibly a little later, a paper mill was established by Clark & Gray at Willimantic Falls. There were then the accumulated manufacturing industries at this point of a carding machine, a grist mill, a saw mill, a clothiery establishment, a blacksmith shop and a paper mill. The Spaffords and Allens at South Windham were experimenting in various directions. Jesse Spafford and Amos D. Allen procured a patent for

an ingenious planing knife, making bonnet chip out of shavings. Joshua Smith carried on clothiery works at South Windham, assisted by his son-in-law, George Spafford, and made cloth for the army, the cloth having a high reputation for its indigo blue. Amos D. Allen carried on furniture manufacture at the family homestead, employing many assistants and gaining a high reputation for superior workmanship. Hundreds of tall clock cases, embellished with many quaint and curious designs, were sent out from this establishment, and found a ready market, especially at the South. The Taintor brothers, with George Abbe and Edmond Badger, formed a partnership for the manufacture of paper, about the year 1810. They built a mill on the Natchaug, in the north part of the town, which was then called New Boston. They made writing paper in three grades, of strong texture but coarse finish. Elijah M. Spafford, in 1814, set up new clothiery works at Willimantic Falls, carrying on carding, water spinning and weaving, as well as cloth dressing and dyeing.

From this time forward the manufacturing industry became the absorbing interest of this town. The manufacture of cotton was soon after introduced, and about the close of the first quarter century, cotton factories had been built at Willimantic and unique manufacturing industries were developing at North Windham and South Windham. In September, 1822, Perez O. Richmond bought of Waldo Cary and Anson Young land and privilege on the Willimantic near its junction with the Natchaug, and soon built up a factory and a village. The brothers Jillson, of Dorchester, in 1824, purchased a site just above the old paper and grist mills, west of the Iron Works bridge, and put up more substantial buildings. The Windham Company was next in the field, led by Hartford Tingley and Matthew Watson, of Providence, occupying a privilege farther westward. A small factory in the same vicinity was built and carried on by Deacon Charles Lee, of Windham. And from these beginnings have grown up manufacturing interests that have gathered together and maintained one of the largest towns of eastern Connecticut, and gained for themselves individually reputations that are world wide. They will be noticed more particularly in connection with the localities to which they belong.

In the central part of the town and about three miles east of Willimantic, lies the peaceful village of Windham, known also as Windham Centre. This village exhibits but little of the ac-

tivity and business life characteristic of the modern village, but here was once the proudest center of business and social and political influence in Windham county. Here passed scenes of political and patriotic prowess, and events of wide-spread fame which have become famous in the annals of the state, and made the name of Windham immortal. This was in early days the principal settlement of the town, and it continued to hold its prominence until the new center of Willimantic came into prominence, when it was compelled to yield the balance of power. As Willimantic increased in size and prosperity this once prominent and influential village correspondingly receded. She yielded slowly to the demands of her aspiring off-shoot, but was forced to submit to the will of the stronger. Windham is a quiet, luxuriant, well-preserved and attractive village, and a favorite summer resort.

The old cemetery of the town of Windham lies on the west side of the road toward South Windham, about a half mile from the center of the village. It contains two acres or more, well filled with graves. The grounds are plainly but neatly kept. Some hemlock, pine and fir trees are scattered about in it. The old part of the ground has numerous old gray stones whose inscriptions antedate the present century. The western part of the ground is more modern and contains several vaults and some granite monuments. A neat hearse house stands by the roadside. Among the family names conspicuously represented here, in the old part of the ground, are Allen, Ripley, Marsh, Hebbard, Manning, Webb, Elderkin, Huntington, Welch, Murdock, Fitch, Cary, Dodge, Young, Wales, Abbe, Bingham, Ginnings, Flint, Warner, Badcock, Follet and Tracy. Here we are pointed to the grave of the first settler of Windham, and besides the somewhat lengthy inscription to his virtues, a copy of which may be found in another chapter of this work, the monumental pile which rests over his remains also bears this legend—"Mr. John Cates, This Monument is Erected upon ye Towns Cost in 1769." One of the most fancifully carved slabs of the olden time contains this inscription:—"This stone is erected in memory of Mr. James Flint, who died May 23d, A. D. 1788, in ye 66th Year of his Age. For 30 years he was a reputable Merchant in Windham, and always sustained the character of an honest man and a good citizen." One of the early ministers of the town church is thus represented on stone:—"Dedicated To the Memory of ELDER

Benjamin Lathrop who after faithfully discharging his duty as a Minister of the Gospel of Christ—worn out with bodily Infirmities calmly resigned his breath on the 16th of July, 1804, in the 79th year of his Age.” On a heavy old brown stone table we read the epitaph of Colonel Thomas Dyer, who died May 27th, 1766, 72 years of age. His inscription is cut into the slab, but a die sunk into it bears the inscription to his wife as follows:—“Here lies Interr’d the Remains of Mrs. Lydia Dyar the late Consort of Col’nl THOMAS DYAR of Windham. She was born January the 15th A. D. 1695, and died March the 12th A. D. 1751 In the 57th Year of her Age, And in firm Expectation of Eternal Life Through the Merits of JESUS CHRIST.”

Besides the Congregational church, which is noticed elsewhere, this village contains a handsome stone structure, known as St. Paul’s Episcopal church. The origin of the Episcopal church in this village dates about the beginning of the present century, though its first movements are enveloped in obscurity. Services were conducted about that time by Reverend John Tyler of Norwich, who visited this station occasionally. Services were held in private houses for a time, but in 1832 a society was formed and in the following year a handsome stone church was erected, which is still standing. The first service was held in it December 25th, 1833. It was formally consecrated by the Right Reverend Thomas Church Brownell, bishop of the diocese of Connecticut, April 11th, 1834. The first rector of this church was L. H. Corson, whose ministry here began December 17th, 1832, and ended in 1836. Since that time successive rectors have been—William A. Curtis, 1836–7; Charles J. Todd, ’37–8; John W. Woodward, ’38–9; Henry B. Sherman, ’39–43; Giles H. De-shon, ’43–5; Abel Nichols, ’45–6; A. Ogden, ’46–7; Joseph Brewster, ’47–; Henry Edwards, ’50–1; Sanford J. Horton, ’51–61; John H. Anketell, ’62; Alfred H. Stubbs, ’65; Clayton Eddy, ’66–8; E. Huntington Saunders, ’69; Isaac W. Hallam, ’69–75; Richard K. Ashley, ’76; Richard C. Searing, ’84–6; Henry B. Jefferson, from May 2d, 1886, to the present time. Mr. Jefferson resides in Willimantic and has charge of St. Paul’s church in that village. The church here is in a prosperous condition. During the last three years the interior of the church has been greatly improved by the efforts of the ladies of the parish. The present number of communicants is twenty-three.

A Baptist church once existed in this village for a brief season.

It was instituted in 1846. A house of worship was erected, but the society was weak and could give but a feeble support to the preaching of the gospel. After about ten years, services were abandoned, and the house was used for a year or two by an Old School Presbyterian society, which also had a feeble and short existence. The church being abandoned altogether, was taken down and removed to Baltic about twenty years since.

South Windham is a pleasant little village about three and a half miles southeast from Willimantic. It is beautifully situated, amid romantic surroundings of hill and marsh, cultivated field and wooded plain, winding through all of which the swift, dark waters of the Shetucket gracefully ripple on their merry course to the sea. It has stations on the Providence Division of the New York & New England, and on the New London Northern railroads. It lies thirteen miles north-northwest from Norwich. It is situated in the southern part of the township, not far from the line. It has a population of about six hundred, and is the center of considerable manufacturing interest. Many years ago the facilities offered by the stream at this point were appreciated and turned to account in various small ways. By the development of inventive genius on the part of men associated with the locality it was made the seat of manufacturing operations of great importance to the country. About 1827 George Spafford of this place, a man of much mechanical insight, having been employed in fitting up the Fourdrinier machine for making paper at North Windham, formed a partnership with James Phelps, and they set to work to construct a duplicate. They first began work at New Furnace, in Stafford, on account of the foundry facilities to be had there. Nine men, under Charles Smith as foreman, were kept at work within closed doors, with ordinary hand tools and a single power lathe. Yankee ingenuity triumphed over every obstacle, and completed an improvement upon the original Fourdrinier machine. It was sold to Amos D. Hubbard, and put in successful operation at Norwich Falls, in May, 1829. A second machine was soon afterward completed and sold to Henry Hudson of East Hartford. Both yielded such excellent results that the projectors were encouraged to make preparations for the permanent continuance of the business, and accordingly erected suitable accommodations on the site of an old fulling mill at this place. Their works were ready for occupancy early in 1830. Here they built mills for customers in

many different states, and supplied parts of machinery. This, it is claimed, was the first paper making machinery successfully working in this country. It should have been mentioned that the first Fourdrinier machine was brought to this country about 1827, from Germany, by an Englishman named Pickering, who employed Spafford to assist in setting it in operation. In 1830 the firm sent Charles Pickering, son of the first mentioned, to England to investigate the process of steam drying used in that country, and soon after that time Spafford invented the present paper cutter. The firm removed their works to South Windham in November, 1830, and commenced operations in the following February. They then employed about ten hands and finished six to eight machines a year. These machines were valued at from \$2,000 to \$3,500 apiece. About the year 1838, Charles Smith, a millwright, and Harvey Winchester, a blacksmith, who had been employees of Spafford, Phelps & Co., were admitted into the firm, the capital stock of which at that time was \$50,000. Owing to financial troubles during the years 1838 to 1840, the stock of Phelps and Spafford was sold to the other partners and the firm of Smith, Winchester & Co. was formed. George Spafford died soon after this, heavily involved. James Phelps invented Phelps' patent washer, and accumulated some property before his death. Since that time the business has been conducted under the name of Smith, Winchester & Co. They employ about one hundred hands, and have manufactured machines that weighed one hundred tons each and cost \$20,000. Where formerly machines were made from forty-seven to forty-eight inches wide and run forty feet a minute, they are now made one hundred inches wide and run two hundred and fifty feet a minute. The main features, however, remain the same as when their manufacture was first begun. The firm have again and again been compelled to enlarge their works and build new conveniences for storage. The Little Pigeon Swamp brook, which sometimes ran dry during the summer, was made permanently effective by the construction of reservoirs covering the former swamp. A prosperous village has grown up around this establishment, and other industries have been added.

Amos D. Allen was a manufacturer of furniture at South Windham. His son Edwin inherited a large share of the inventive genius of the family. Incidentally visiting a printing office at Norwich one day, he became interested in seeing a font of

wood type, and at once conceived the idea of manufacturing it by machinery. He set to work and soon had the idea in practical operation, and with such success that about the year 1827 he established in a small way the business of manufacturing wood type at this place. Though many improvements have been made in the manufacture of wood type yet the principle of the chief machines used by Mr. Allen is still preserved. The business made fair progress under his control, there being at that time but one other establishment in the country engaged in the same work, that being Darius Wells & Co., of Paterson, N. J. In 1837 Mr. Allen entered into partnership with George F. Nesbit of New York city, who under his own name introduced the wood type to the trade, while Mr. Allen conducted the manufacture in South Windham. The business made fair progress, though encountering the opposition incident to new inventions. Later on another man came upon the stage with an additional fund of inventive genius and executive ability in the person of William H. Page, of New Hampshire. He had served many years in the practical work of a printing office, and after considerable time spent in experimenting in that direction, he obtained the machinery which had been used in the business by others and started a factory on his own account in 1856. During the next year many improvements were made in his machinery, and a much superior kind of type was produced. The business survived the panic of 1857 in a healthy state, and in the fall of that year was removed to Greenville, in the suburbs of Norwich, where it was carried on more extensively.

Following another line of the history of wood type manufacture in this town we will go back again to Edwin Allen. He was the originator of the business here, and started business in an old building which stood near the machine shop. He afterward erected a shop about one mile west, on his father's farm, where he employed steam for power. His method was original and he kept it a secret to all except his employees. "No Admittance" was painted upon the doors of his shop and the rule was strictly adhered to. This was about the year 1840. Some twelve persons were employed, and type cases, galleys and other wooden materials used in printing offices were manufactured, as well as wood type, and block letters for signs were also cut out. Allen failed in business, and afterward moved the shop down to where he building now stands, being used by the present American

Wood Type Company. John G. Cooley bought the business and removed it to New York city. In April, 1878, the American Wood Type Company, then composed of C. H. Tubbs, John Martin and George L. Kies, formerly connected with the Page Company, began the manufacture of wood type in the building which years before had been occupied by Allen. They ran the business for five years, and then the other partners turned their interests over to Mr. Tubbs, who now represents the company, and the establishment is in active operation. The shop has capacity and machinery to employ seventeen hands. They have patterns on hand to manufacture two hundred different styles of type, in all sizes ranging from two-line up to 100-line. The works are run by water power supplied by the Pigeon Swamp brook.

The Radial Thread Buff Company of South Windham was organized in 1883, for the purpose of introducing a patent article invented by Robert Binns, which they commenced to manufacture in a small way. The patented article is a wheel from eight to twelve inches in diameter, made of cotton cloth, the filling being cotton rags. This wheel is used by silver platers to burnish their ware. The company also make wheels from whole stock, but in the manufacture of scrap wheels they are the only concern in the country. The present production is from fifteen to twenty thousand monthly, and employment is given to about fifteen hands. Robert Binns was born in Providence, R. I., January 9th, 1844, and is of English descent, being the eldest son of Robert and Hannah Binns. He is a machinist by trade, and he came to South Windham in 1873. He married Mary Rue and they have six children: Mary, Nancy, Frederic, Bertha, Eva and Eugene.

There is also at South Windham a grist mill, owned by Mr. E. H. Holmes. It is situated in the village, near the track of the New London Northern railroad. It was built by Mr. E. H. Holmes, the father of the present owner, about the year 1848. It has a capacity of about eighteen horse-power, and grinds from twenty-five to thirty thousand bushels a year. One room in this grist mill is occupied by Robert Binns in the manufacture of a patent slitter blade, which is self sharpening and has an improved slitter hub. Slitter blades are a pair of cutting disks with edges working together like the edges of a pair of scissors. This manufacture is a new enterprise, but it is meeting with deserved success.

The only church of this village is an offshoot from the Con-

gregational church of Windham. For twenty-five years, more or less, services have been conducted here on occasional Sabbaths or on week-day evenings. The old Fitch school house is used for religious services. This is a building once intended for a private school, and is rented of private owners for religious services. It stands near and is connected with the Warner House, a hotel of commodious size standing near the depot of the New London Northern railroad. It is now owned by Alfred Kinne. For a few years back religious services on Sunday have been omitted, but in March, 1888, a Society of Christian Endeavor was formed here, and in the following December a church was organized, which now numbers eighteen members. During the winter a revival occurred. Since December 7th, 1888, preaching services have been held every Sunday afternoon by the pastor of the old church at Windham Centre. A Sunday school is also maintained here.

South Windham is a pleasant village, with wide streets and elm-shaded walks, lighted with gas. The surrounding country is hilly, and on an eminence on the west stands a modern antique structure of respectable dimensions, just completed for a summer hotel. It overlooks the village and surroundings, and is a conspicuous object for miles around. Its site affords charming landscapes of the Shetucket valley and the surrounding country. The road from South Windham northerly toward the old center of the town crosses the Shetucket over a covered wooden bridge 252 feet long, over the portals of which may be read the usual legend of warning, in great black letters on a white ground, "The riding or driving any Horses, Teams or Carriages on this Bridge in a Gait faster than a Walk is by Law prohibited." On the east side of the river is the depot of the Providence Division of the New England railroad, about one-eighth of a mile from the other. Cleared farms occupy most of the hills of the vicinity, which are somewhat bold and rugged, while among them the Shetucket, a beautiful stream, swiftly and gracefully glides in many a rippling curve.

In the northwest corner of the town, on the Natchaug river and the New York and New England railroad, lies the post village of North Windham. It is situated on a comparatively level step on the northwest border of the hilly section of the town, and about four miles north of Willimantic. The village contains some four hundred inhabitants, and its principal institution is a

manufactory of thread. This locality was formerly called New Boston, and about the year 1810 Edmond Badger and others built a mill here and began the manufacture of writing paper. This enterprise gave some impetus to the growth of the village for awhile, but it was abandoned by Badger in 1825, and after further failures to make it a success, it fell into the hands of an Englishman named Joseph Pickering, who with great labor and difficulty had succeeded in bringing to America the first imported Fourdrinier machine for the manufacture of paper. He was joined by J. A. H. Frost, of Boston, and they bought the dilapidated paper mill at a low price, and here set up the machine which was to effect a revolution in paper making. This firm soon became bankrupt, and their Boston creditors attempted to carry on the business, but they were equally unsuccessful. The Fourdrinier machine was moved to Andover, Conn., and finally to York, Pa.

In 1831 the mill property above spoken of came into the hands of Mr. Justin Swift, who transformed it into a cotton factory. Under his management a successful manufacturing establishment was maintained. The mill employed about forty hands and was a benefit to the neighborhood. On the 16th of July, 1860, the mill took fire and was destroyed. It was rebuilt and Mr. Swift, in the fall of 1862, leased it to the Merrick Brothers, who converted it into a mill for the manufacture of thread in the skein. They retained occupancy of the premises till 1872, when the property was bought by E. H. Hall & Son, the father having been superintendent of the mill for Merrick Brothers, and the son having been connected with the same firm in their works at Holyoke, Mass. Since that time the capacity of the mill has been increased about one-half, and thirty-six feet have been added to the original length of the building. The mill is run wholly by water, and forty hands are employed, the manufactured product amounting to about three thousand pounds a week.

Edwin H. Hall, the senior member of this firm, was the second youngest son of a family of thirteen children of Nathan and Philomella Hall, and he was born in Mansfield, Conn., May 26th, 1821. He married Sophia, daughter of Major Henry Prentice, and had five children, viz.: Luthera, wife of Charles S. Lyman, overseer of Merrick Thread Company, of Holyoke, Mass.; Ella M., Edwin H., Alice A., wife of P. A. Foland, agent at Boston

for the Merrick Thread Company; and Francois P., who died in childhood. Edwin H. was born in Willimantic, December 29th, 1847. He married Maria Ayers, a native of South Coventry, Conn., and they had one child, Francois L., also an adopted daughter, Nettie M. Edwin H. died December 12th, 1884.

The settlement of North Windham had, in the first half of the century, a fulling and carding mill, owned by the Lincolns. This they afterward transformed into a manufactory of felting used in working the Fourdrinier machine, they having acquired the art by picking to pieces and reconstructing the English specimens first imported. The village had attained sufficient importance to be favored with a post office in 1838, and Mr. Ralph Lincoln was appointed postmaster, which office he retained for many years.

The North Windham Cemetery is a tract of land about one acre in extent, located near the center of the village. Jonah Lincoln probably donated ground for it. The society took charge of it for awhile, but later the town has taken charge of it and enlarged it. It is well filled with graves and is neatly kept. It lies on the east side of the Windham road, and on either side of it are the institutions of the place, the church and the school house. These buildings are white and of similar model, and not greatly different in size. The meeting house, which stands north of the cemetery, is a little larger in size. Each is surmounted by a belfry. The church, cemetery and school house are about one-fourth of a mile west of the railroad station.

The Christian Society which occupies and owns the meeting house referred to is an undenominational society composed simply of those who contribute to its financial support. The object is to maintain a Christian ministry or preaching of the Gospel regardless of denominational creeds. The preamble and resolutions agreeing to certain broad and liberal conditions bears date March 15th, 1830. Meetings were first held in a school house. At the organization, Jonah Lincoln acted as moderator, and the name then adopted was the "New Boston Christian Society," after the name which was held by the locality at that time. January 7th, 1857, the name was changed by vote of the society to "North Windham Christian Society." The meeting house was built in 1844. The first members of the society, that is, those who joined it previous to 1840, were Jonah Lincoln, Elias Sharp, Levi Johnson, Daniel Lincoln, Jacob Flint, Ralph

Lincoln, Samuel Flint, James Lincoln, Warren Clark, Charles W. Warren, Lester Lincoln, Benjamin Perry, Warner Lincoln, Nathaniel Lincoln, John Flint, Robert W. Robinson, Burr Lincoln, Asa Bates, Henry Lincoln, David Lincoln, Samuel A. Lincoln, Stowel Lincoln, Darias Spafford, Shubael Cross, George Backus, Erastus Martin, Thomas Robinson, Rufus Burnham, Nathan Gallup, Moses Coffin, William M. Johnson, Horace Flint, Sherman Simons, Thomas Baldwin, Schuyler Chamberlin, Samuel Flint 2d, Moses C. Abbe, Marvin Lincoln, Nelson Simms, James L. Brown, Philip R. Capen, Luther Burnham, William L. Dexter, John J. Burnham, Levi Allen, Mason Lincoln, Frank M. Lincoln and Allen Lincoln. From 1840 up to later dates, as given in the list following, other subscribers joined the society as follows: Charles Card, Hezekiah P. Brown, N. F. Ackley, Reuben Peck, Porter B. Peck, Charles Collar, Pearl L. Peck, Albert Lincoln, 1847; George Lincoln, Oren F. Lincoln, Freeman D. Spencer, Dwight F. Lincoln, 1849; Lorin Lincoln, Jared W. Lincoln, Sumner Lincoln, Thomas T. Upton, Lucius Ingraham, Lucius Flint, Henry E. Gurley, 1853; Lucius H. Cross, Martin Flint, 1858; Edward L. Burnham, Charles Johnson, Seymour Davenport, Joel W. Webb, 1859; Pardon Parker, Charles Squires, Stowel Burnham, Chester Welden, 1871; Albert Hartson, Edwin H. Hall, 1873; Charles E. Peck, Henry A. Jones, George E. Bennett, 1880; David Nichols, Abner P. Smith, Robert Harley, C. F. Spencer, M. A. Bates, William Sibley.

The society for many years employed regular ministers, who resided here and performed pastoral functions. Among the early ministers were Roger Bingham, of Windham, Harry Greenslit, of Scotland (both of whom also preached here before the society was formally organized), Alfred Burnham, Savage White, of Canterbury; Isaac H. Coe, Waldo Barrows, James Burlingame, a young man by the name of Wright for a year or two, and Sylvester Barrows for a year or two. Since about 1878 no resident pastor has been supported, but preaching has been maintained more or less by the employment of ministers associated with churches in the neighboring villages as circumstances indicated, the funds of the society being placed in the hands of a committee with discretionary power.

The mill of which previous mention has been made as having been once owned and operated by the Lincolns in the manufacture of felting for the Fourdrinier paper machines, stood about

fifty rods below the cotton mill of E. H. Hall & Son. The manufacture of felting belts was carried on by Stowel Lincoln previous to the late war. These belts were endless and seamless, and made to run over rollers to take up moisture from paper pulp. Few manufactories of the kind existed in this country, and this gave a considerable prosperity to the village. It gave employment to about thirty hands in its prosperous days. This business, however, faded out, and when the war introduced the "days of shoddy" the mill was changed to a factory for making woolen cloth. This business was introduced by Stowel Lincoln, and later the mill has passed into the hands of William Sibley. It is only in operation now a part of the time.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

JONATHAN HATCH.—Samuel Hatch, the grandfather of the subject of this biography, married Naomi Phelps. Their son Jonathan, a resident of Lebanon, Connecticut, was married to Betsey Payne of the same town. The children of this union were: Samuel O., Eliza, Chester P., Jonathan, and James C., of whom Chester P. and Jonathan are the only survivors. The latter was born in Lebanon, October 21st, 1817, and until the age of sixteen resided on the homestead farm. He received a rudimentary education, and on deciding to encourage his taste for mechanics, entered the shops of Phelps & Spafford at South Windham as an apprentice. Here his services were speedily made valuable as a journeyman, until an interest in the business was acquired under the firm name of Smith, Winchester & Co.

Mr. Hatch retained his connection with the business for thirty years, retiring from the firm in 1877. Meanwhile this attractive field of labor furnished aid for the development of his inventive genius. He secured various patents on machinery, the right to some being transferred to the firm while others were reserved by him. His attention is still given to inventions, the most important being the construction of a machine for the manufacture of paper by a new process, the patent for which was obtained in August, 1889. This is but one of several patents obtained by him on inventions of more or less importance. Mr. Hatch has, aside from his business interests, given more or less attention to matters of a public and political nature. He has been for four years selectman of his town and represented his constituents in the state legislature. He was in 1845 married to Alma, daugh-



Jonathan Hatch



W. H. F. 25 1871

Geo S. Moulton

ter of John and Lucinda Armstrong, of Franklin, Connecticut. They have had eight children, three of whom are living.

GEORGE S. MOULTON.—The subject of this sketch, George S. Moulton, was the son of Harvey Moulton and Anna M. Turner, who were married October 29th, 1828. He was born in the town of Mansfield, Tolland county, Conn., on the 13th of September, 1829, and was the eldest of six children. He received a thorough elementary education, and in youth spent several years on a farm. Being, however, ambitious for a wider field of activity than was open to him in the country, he went to Willimantic and entered the Windham Company's stores, of which (after a few years of service) he became proprietor. In 1853 he married Caroline F., daughter of John S. Hazen of Worthington, Mass. Their three children are: Cora L., now the wife of A. L. Hatheway, Georgianna and Everett Huntington. In the infancy of the Willimantic Linen Company he removed to New York as agent for the sale of their thread. In conjunction with this business he dealt largely in commercial paper and was also interested in other enterprises in that city which, aided by his superior judgment and executive ability, were eminently successful.

In 1869 he was compelled by failing health to abandon active business and retire to his country home at Windham, near the scene of his birth and his earliest experiences in commercial life. A Republican in politics, he was above subterfuges and in all things honest and honorable. He represented the town of Windham in the Connecticut house of representatives in 1871 and again in 1877, and in 1878 was elected to the senate from the 13th Senatorial district, filling both positions with ability. In 1876 he was the nominee of his party for presidential elector.

Mr. Moulton was for several years a director of the Willimantic Linen Company, and a prominent factor in its development and growth. He was also a director of the National Shoe and Leather Bank of New York, of the New York & New England and the Boston & New York Air Line railroads and the Willimantic Savings Institute, and at one time president of the Willimantic Trust Company. He enjoyed the reputation of being an able financier, whose superior tact enabled him to avoid or easily overcome reverses of fortune. Mr. Moulton was held in high esteem, not only by his personal friends but by a large circle of acquaintances. The affectionate regard he inspired in the

hearts of all who knew him can best be indicated by a quotation from the editorial columns of a leading journal on the occasion of his death (which occurred on the 8th of June, 1882):

"The man whose life has been a constant bloom, imparting its fragrance to the sense of all, suddenly blighted from earth leaves a vacancy which cannot be filled; but there remains that sweet perfume of a life well spent. It is with sorrow we are called upon to record the end of a life so honored and honorable as that of George S. Moulton. Few men live whose obituary when truthfully written will contain little else but praise, but the pages of this man's history are radiant with noble deeds and marred with blemishes few indeed."

GUILFORD SMITH.—Joshua Smith, the grandfather of Guilford Smith, and a native of Lebanon, New London county, subsequently moved to Windham county, Connecticut, where he was both a weaver and a farmer, and in connection with his trade wove cloth for the soldiers during the war of 1812. His children were three sons, Chandler, Charles and Marvin, and five daughters, Myra, Lydia, Laura, Emily and Mary. Charles, of this number, was born in Windham, and early learned the trade of a millwright. In 1828 he began the manufacture of machinery at Stafford Hollow, in Tolland county, and two years later, having built a foundry at South Windham, removed to that point, where he is still interested as the senior member of the firm of Smith, Winchester & Co., conducting a successful business under his judicious management. He married Mary, daughter of Moses and Tabatha Abbe. Their children are a son, Guilford, and a daughter, Mary, wife of P. H. Woodward, of Hartford.

Guilford Smith was born May 12th, 1839, in the town of Windham, where he pursued his preliminary studies, and completed his education at a school of higher grade in Ellington, Tolland county. Returning to Windham, he entered the office of Smith, Winchester & Co. as bookkeeper and draftsman, and early became so thoroughly identified with the business as to warrant his admission as a partner. Under his able supervision it greatly increased in proportions, and a demand for the products of the establishment was created in various parts of Europe, in Australia, Japan, Canada, Mexico, and nearly all parts of the United States. Machinery adapted to the manufacture of paper is here produced, Mr. Smith being exclusively at the head of this large



W. W. Preston & Co. N.Y.

Guilford Smith

industry. The subject of this biography, though not in any sense a politician, nor aggressive in his identification with local affairs, is nevertheless a strong factor in the republican ranks, and wields in his unostentatious way no little influence in the county. In 1883 he was the representative of his town in the state house of representatives. He is president of the Windham Bank of Willimantic, and director of other banks and business enterprises. In religion he adheres to the Congregational church, to which his generous aid is given. Mr. Smith was married December 16th, 1863, to Mary, daughter of Thomas Ramsdell, of Mansfield, Connecticut.

CHAPTER XVI.

WILLIMANTIC.

General Description.—Communication with the World.—Some Public Features.—Retrospect of Half a Century.—Early Stages of the Cotton Mill Industries.—Starting of the Windham and Smithville Companies.—First Steps of the Linen Company's Plant.—Early Builders of the Village.—The Post Office.—Incorporation of the Borough.—Fire Companies and Engines.—Fire Department.—Destructive Fires.—Water Works.—Public Schools.—Libraries.—Churches : Congregational, Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Episcopal, Spiritualist, Mission Hall, Camp Meeting.—Growth of Manufacturing.—Windham Company.—Smithville Company.—Linen Company.—Holland Silk Company.—Morrison Company.—Chaffee & Son.—Turner Silk Mill.—Natchaug Silk Company.—Foundry.—Builders and Other Manufacturers.—Board of Trade.—Cemeteries.—Masonic History.—Benefit Societies.—Banks.—Buildings.—Newspapers, Printing and Wood Type.—Biographical Sketches.

WILLIMANTIC, a beautiful village of about ten thousand inhabitants, lies in the southwest corner of the town of Windham, and consequently in the southwest corner of the county. The Willimantic, a vigorous stream, as powerful and as graceful as its name is beautiful, winds along the valley through the center of the borough to which it has given name. On the slope of the left bank lies the principal part of the village, and nearly all of the business concerns. Great power is furnished for the driving of machinery by the falls in the river, and this circumstance gave rise to the building of a populous village here. In the eastern suburbs of the village the Natchaug joins the Willimantic, and they unitedly form the Shetucket.

No place in New England, dependent upon railroad transportation facilities, is better endowed in this respect. The situation of the Willimantic is one that commends itself to the serious consideration of progressive and far-seeing business men who are about to embark in new and promising enterprises, or who desire to change from unsuitable and inconvenient locations to more congenial and favorable ones, such as they will find Willimantic to be after having looked over the field and come in contact with its citizens.

Here they will find first-class facilities for receiving materials and shipping goods, a desirable place of residence, an excellent system of water-works, ample police protection, an effective fire department, the very best banking accommodations, moderate taxes, electric lights, good schools, churches, public libraries, etc., and opportunities to secure favorable building sites for residences at reasonable prices.

Magnificent hills rise on either side of the valley, and these are yet unoccupied except in a few instances. When their summits are crowned by some structures of architectural beauty, as doubtless some day they will be, then the attractions of Willimantic will impress the passing traveler, or the prospecting investor or resident, as one of the most desirable localities in all this section of the country. Already it is one of the most flourishing and rapidly growing towns in New England, as doubtless it is the most important one of eastern Connecticut. Its rapid growth is shown by the following facts: By the census report of 1870 the population of the borough was 4,048; in 1880, 6,612; a gain of $63\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in ten years. At the same rate of increase from 1880 to 1890, the next census will show a population of 10,799. Based on the number of names in the Directory for 1887, a population of 10,000 has already been attained. The time is not far distant when these figures will be doubled. Willimantic's advantages and prospects of future growth and development warrant this assertion.

The railroad facilities are ample. The New York and New England railroad runs from Boston, directly through Willimantic, to the Hudson river at Newburgh, a distance of 220 miles, passing through Hartford, New Britain, Waterbury and Danbury. Within a year or two this road will have direct connection with the Pennsylvania coal and oil fields and all western points, via the Poughkeepsie bridge, recently completed. The New England railroad also extends from Willimantic to Providence, R. I., 58 miles, and the company operates a number of important branches, among them the Connecticut Central, from Hartford to Springfield, Mass., and the Norwich and Worcester road, which runs in connection with the Norwich and New York steamboat line. The division of the New England road between Boston and Willimantic is double-tracked, as are also sections of the line westward to New Britain. Willimantic has direct communication with New York city over the Air Line

and New York, New Haven and Hartford roads, both operated under one management, and over the New England road via Hartford. The New London Northern road passes through Willimantic, running northerly until it reaches a junction with the Vermont Central system, of which it forms a part, and also making connection with the Boston and Albany road at Palmer, Mass.

Willimantic is only sixteen miles from tide water at Norwich, communication with which is direct by the New London Northern railroad, and is also reached by rail via Plainfield over the New England road. Tide water is also had via the Air Line road to New Haven, 54 miles, and by the New England road to Providence, 58 miles, and at Hartford, 30 miles. Fast express trains place Willimantic within two hours of Boston and three hours of New York. To Boston is 86 miles, to New York 117 miles. Willimantic is almost midway between Boston, the metropolis of New England, and New York, the commercial center of this globe. People can also go to and come from Philadelphia and Washington, D. C., without change of cars.

In hotel accommodations Willimantic stands second to no town in Connecticut. There are five, viz., Hooker House (new), Brainerd House, Hotel Commercial, Revere House and European House. Of these, the Brainerd House is the oldest. But that has no claim to antiquity. The original hotel of Willimantic is a brick house, still standing on the south side of the river, which in the old stage-coach days was a stopping place on the great thoroughfare between Providence and Hartford. Later, the house in the village now known as the Chaffee House was opened by Mr. Brainerd, and still later the present Brainerd House was fitted up by a company, and Mr. Brainerd managed it and gave its name. The Hooker House is pre-eminently one of the finest hotels in eastern Connecticut, and perhaps the finest. It was erected in 1886 by S. C. Hooker. It is a substantial four-story brick building, the interior arrangement of which is a marvel of convenience and economy. Corridors nine feet wide run through the center of the building on each floor, and a hydraulic elevator, steam heat, hot and cold water, electric bells and speaking tubes, are among the modern advantages in the generally complete equipment. There are one hundred chambers of uniform size, and the eating and sleeping accommodations are first-class in every respect.

The superior court of Windham county holds half of all its civil and criminal terms of court in Willimantic. Under a recent statute permitting transfer of causes from one county to another for trial, by agreement of parties or their counsel, many cases arising in Mansfield, Coventry, Andover, Columbia, Hebron, Willington and Stafford are also tried here. The court house is one of the most elegant in its finish and furniture, and convenient in its appointments, of any in the state.

Taxation here is moderate. Property is not assessed to exceed 60 per cent. of its market valuation, and the combined borough and town tax rate is only 16½ mills on the dollar. The grand list for 1886 was : Borough, \$3,505,804 ; town, \$4,146,127.

Three lines for telegraphic communication are available—the Western Union, United Lines, and the Mutual Union—and manufacturers and business men here get the benefit of the lowest prevalent rates to all competing points. The telephone service is complete, and an electric light plant is in operation.

For pleasant drives, Willimantic and vicinity towns offer unusual attractions. The main street from the eastern to the western limit furnishes a drive of nearly two miles, and gives the stranger a very good idea of the place, passing as he does through the business portion of the town. The opera house, court house, all the hotels and banks, the Linen Company's four large mills, the Smithville and Windham Companies' mills, and the Willimantic fair grounds, are located on this thoroughfare. In the outside drives, a favorite one is easterly over Bricktop hill to Windham. Another is along Pleasant street, on the south side of the river and running parallel with it. Here a five minutes' climb will take one to the top of Hosmer mountain, the location of the reservoir from which the village receives its supply of water. Here a magnificent view of the village and the surrounding country may be had. The picture shows the beautiful Willimantic river winding its way through the meadows as it comes down from the northwest ; the different railroads as they approach the converging point, from the "four winds of heaven ;" on the right, the majestic Natchaug, wreathing its serpentine course through hill and vale, as if in no hurry to leave its pleasant surroundings ; the Mansfield, Coventry, Lebanon and Columbia hills, dotted here and there with villages and thrifty farm houses, and the village of Willimantic below, with its mills, workshops, business blocks and fine residences. In the way of

longer drives may be mentioned one to the south, over Village hill to Lebanon, about seven miles, and to the west to Columbia green and the Columbia reservoir, a very popular resort for fishing and picnicing parties; another to the north to South Coventry, noted as the site of the monument to Nathan Hale, of revolutionary fame. To the west of the village lies Lake Wamgumbaug, a very pretty sheet of water, and quite celebrated locally for its fine black bass fishing. Yet another fine drive, but somewhat longer, is the one north through Mansfield street to the Storrs agricultural school. On this route is passed the Willimantic water works pumping station. The Natchaug river is dammed at this point, forming a beautiful lake, with grounds laid out very tastily as a small park. This is fast becoming a very popular resort for Willimantic people in summer, being only a short drive of two and a half miles from the place.

The Willimantic Fair Association is in a thrifty condition, with good grounds, new, roomy and substantial buildings, and the best half-mile track in the county. Horsemen with national reputations have spoken in the highest terms of the superior advantages of this track for horse trotting, and of the management. All the exhibitions have been eminently successful, and the prospects are flattering for the future.

About the close of the first quarter of the present century, Willimantic consisted only of a few straggling houses here and there. The old Carey house was here, and that is still standing. The Baker house was one of its associates, and that is still standing. A small paper and grist mill and saw mill, owned by Clark & Gray of Windham, stood just east of the residence of John H. Capen, near the present site of No. 2 thread mill. The old state powder works of the revolutionary time occupied very nearly the same site. At that time this locality was familiarly and locally known as "the State," a name which clung to it for many years. A short distance east of the grist mill were two dwelling houses, and on the north side of Carey hill one or two more, which have long since disappeared. On Main street, just east of E. C. Carpenter's store, stood the Azariah Balcom residence, connected with a large tract of land located north of Main street. The next house west was owned by Erastus Fitch, and in later years by Hardin H. Fitch, one of the oldest natives of the village. There was but one more dwelling west of him on Main street within the corporate limits, and that was on the site

of the present town alms-house. It was replaced by a more modern structure in 1835. This was afterward used as a tavern, standing at the fork of the Bolton and Coventry roads. It was afterward purchased and used as a town alms-house, and was destroyed by fire about eight or ten years since. A new and handsome building, the present town house, was erected on the spot. This is a large two-and-a-half-story building, sufficiently commodious to afford room for one hundred and fifty inmates. Fifty to sixty inmates are frequently in the house in winter, but a smaller number are here in summer. Men arrested for drunkenness and vagrancy are frequently sent up here to work out a fine. A small farm is worked in connection with the house. Some aged and indigent persons are cared for, and a few insane, but such are generally sent to Middletown. The building is a frame structure, clapboarded and neatly painted.

Returning to the period which we are reviewing, on the south side of the river but one dwelling stood at the west end of Pleasant street. At the east end of that street stands the old homestead of Alfred Young, Sr., one of the early and prominent men of Windham. South of this stood the Murdock house, which has since been taken down. On South Main street stood the house of Anson Youngs, which was used as a house of public entertainment in revolutionary days, but has been replaced by a more modern structure within a recent period. East of this locality stands the dwelling formerly occupied by Josiah Dean, Sr., one of the early residents of this locality. In this description we have specified about all there was of Willimantic at the time mentioned.

The pioneer cotton spinner of Willimantic was Perez O. Richmond, who came here from Rhode Island some time in the year 1822, and purchased the privilege at the lower end of the borough now known as Willimantic Linen Company's Mill No. 2. On this site he built a mill of wood, about forty by sixty feet, one and a half stories high, put in machinery and commenced making cotton yarn. He also built a cheap row of tenements, six in number, just north of the mill, for his operatives. Mr. Richmond continued to run this mill until 1827, when it passed into the possession of Messrs. Hawes, father and son, of Providence, R. I., who made extensive repairs to the mill and tenements, and also erected a large boarding house and the best store in the place.

In 1823 Major Matthew Watson, Hartford Tingley, Rathbone Tingley and Arnnah C. Tingley, all of Providence, R. I., purchased the privilege and land adjoining, at the upper end of the village, and formed a corporation by the name of the Windham Cotton Manufacturing Company. They built a dam across the river and put up a mill, which is now the south half of the west mill belonging to the Windham Company. Here they put in machinery and commenced making cotton sheetings and shirtings. They also erected some six dwelling houses for two families each, which were known then, as now, as the "Yellow Row." A store on Main street at the head of the row of houses was built and filled with goods for the operatives. Arnnah C. Tingley, one of the owners, removed here from Providence and became the local agent of the corporation. He built and occupied the dwelling house west of the store on Main street. The erection of a dam for this corporation caused a set back of the water for two miles or more, overflowing large tracts of meadow on this river and on Hop river and Ten Mile river as well. This caused much damage to lands overflowed, and quite a large amount was paid by the company in settlement of such claims.

About the time the Windham company commenced operations Deacon Charles Lee, of Windham, purchased the site of what is now the Smithville Company's property, and erected a mill for the manufacture of cotton goods, four dwellings and a barn and store house. In the spring of 1827 a store was erected by him on the corner of Main and what is now Bridge street, in which were kept a general assortment of dry goods and groceries. Associated with him in the store was Royal Jennings, who came from Windham and remained here until 1840, when he removed to Milwaukee, Wis. Deacon Lee removed to Norwich and was for many years the head of the firm of Lee & Osgood. They were active business men and took a deep interest in the moral and religious welfare of this young and growing community.

In 1824 Messrs. William, Asa and Seth Jillson, three brothers from Dorchester, Mass., purchased land on the south side of Main street, with the water privilege attached thereto, built the dam and laid the foundation of a cotton mill on the site of what is now the Linen Company's spool shop. At that time this was the largest cotton mill in Willimantic. In connection with the manufacture of cotton goods quite an extensive business was done by this firm in the manufacture of machinery for cotton

mills. The stone building opposite the mill, and five dwellings for four families each, were erected by this corporation. An additional mill was erected a few rods below for the same purpose, greatly enlarging what for that time was an extensive business in cotton manufacture. The senior brother built the stone house between Main and Union streets for his residence. Asa built the fine house on the south side of the river, and Seth built another on South Main street, the three being at that time the finest residences in the village.

Thus, in 1826, Willimantic had four cotton mills in successful operation, and began to assume considerable importance. Peter Simpson built a one-story dwelling on the site of the present Brainerd House. The old State powder works had passed into the hands of Samuel Byrne and David Smith, who were operating under the firm name of Byrne & Smith. Guy Hebard had erected a brick house on the south side of the river and opened it for the entertainment of the public. Of this we have already spoken. Here all public gatherings, Fourth of July celebrations, trainings, dancing schools, balls and other carousals of festivity were held. The old Hebard tavern was known far and wide. The first grog-shop in the village was opened by Thomas W. Cunningham, and was located on what is now the west corner of Walnut and Main streets.

Philip Hopkins, one of the first to build on private account, built a house on what is now the site of Levi A. Frink's block on Main street. He also had a general blacksmith shop on Main street, near his residence. Alfred Howes had a similar shop at the lower end of the village at the same time. He soon gave up the business, purchased land between Main, Union, Jackson, Maple and Church streets, and engaged in the first drug business in the village, in association with Newton Fitch and Doctor John A. Perkins of Windham.

Jairus Littlefield, one of the earliest settlers in the village, built and occupied a house on Main street where C. E. Carpenter & Co.'s store now stands. He spent the remainder of his life here, representing the town in the legislature, and was a trial justice for many years. Stephen Hosmer built the second house on Pleasant street, west of Young's residence. He moved here from Columbia in the fall of 1827. He was a lively business man, owned a good deal of land and was an extensive farmer. He also owned the turnpike road from Hebron to Hebard's tav-

ern. At that time there were no streets south side of the river except Columbia Turnpike (now Pleasant street), Card road and South street. Main street was the only one on the north side of the river. Through the efforts of Mr. Hosmer the courts ordered Bridge street to be opened.

About the year 1825, under the administration of John Quincy Adams, a post office was established here by the name of Willimantic Falls, which form the name retained until about 1833, when the "Falls" was dropped from it. Henry Hall, at that time a book-keeper and clerk for the Windham Cotton Manufacturing Company, was appointed postmaster. The most convenient location seemed to be at the Hebard tavern and there the office was established and kept, Mr. Hebard having charge of the office as Mr. Hall's deputy. All the mails in those days were carried by stages or other vehicles, and the tavern was a handy place for mail carriers to stop at. After Mr. Hall resigned the position George W. Hebard was appointed postmaster, and he removed the office to the stone store opposite the present Linen Company's spool shop. Here it remained for some time. Thence it was moved to a building near the Iron Works bridge, about opposite the south end of the Linen Company's Mill No. 1. Mr. Hebard kept also a grocery store. The next postmaster was Colonel Roswell Moulton, who after keeping the office for a while at the old location, removed it to his new store nearly opposite the building now occupied by Edward F. Casey. There it remained until July 1st, 1843, when Lloyd E. Baldwin was appointed postmaster and removed the office to the store nearly opposite the Revere House. The pay of the office at that time amounted to about \$300 a year, being based on commissions. The next postmaster was Joshua B. Lord, who removed the office to his store in what is now Hanover's Block. He was succeeded by William L. Weaver, who removed the office to his store, but retained it only a few months. James H. Work was the next occupant of the office, which was now kept in the twin buildings west of the Franklin Building. Then followed Thomas Campbell, whose office was where the Adams Express Company is now located. He was succeeded by William H. Hosmer, whose term closed in July, 1861, he being succeeded by James Walden, who held the office eight years. His successor was John Brown, who held the office twelve years, and filled the post of assistant for as long a term on the end of that. He was succeeded by

his predecessor Mr. Walden, who held it for an equal term of years, and gave place to Henry N. Wales, the present incumbent.

No private individual contributed more in his time to the growth and prosperity of the village than Daniel Sessions. He was a farmer, living some two miles west of the village on the turnpike road to Coventry. Almost all the brick used here in early days were made and furnished by him. He also furnished timber, erected the frames and finished the buildings ready for occupancy in many instances. Apollos Perkins, William W. Avery and John Brown, living in the near vicinity, did more or less in this line of business, contributing essentially to the growth and prosperity of the village.

In 1833 the growth of the village seemed to indicate that the condition of things might be improved by incorporation as a borough. A petition to the legislature was accordingly presented, which contained the signatures of the business men of the place. It was sent to the legislature at their session at Hartford, in May, 1833. Stephen Hosmer was one of the representatives of the town, and through his efforts, together with those of other citizens, a charter was obtained, organizing Willimantic into a borough. Mr. Hosmer was authorized to call a meeting of the legal voters residing within the corporate limits for the purpose of completing the organization by the election of officers provided for in the charter. The meeting was held on the first day of July in the same year, and the following officers were elected: Loren Carpenter, warden; Doctor Newton Fitch, clerk and treasurer; Wightman Williams, Asa Jillson, Samuel Barrows, Jr., William C. Boon, Doctor William Witter, Royal Jennings, burgesses; Stephen Dexter, bailiff. A tax was levied and Thomas W. Cunningham was chosen tax collector.

Under the charter a disinterested committee of three persons was to be appointed once in five years, by the county court of Windham, to set off to the borough their fair proportion of roads in the town to keep in order during the following five years. This arrangement after a time became a source of dissatisfaction, as many of the roads to be repaired were outside the corporate limits. By a subsequent amendment to the charter this matter was remedied by assigning only the highways within its limits to the borough. The regular election of officers occurs on the second Tuesday in November annually. The borough officers

in 1888 were: John M. Alpaugh, warden; William H. Latham, George Tiffany, James A. McAvoy, D. W. C. Hill, Charles R. Utley, James M. Smith, burgesses; Charles N. Daniels, clerk and treasurer; Frederick L. Clark, bailiff; Charles B. Jordan, collector; Albert R. Morrison, Samuel C. Smith, Jerome B. Baldwin, water commissioners; Homer E. Remington, treasurer of water fund.

The history of the fire companies of Willimantic begins with the history of the first company at Windham Green. Upon the petition of Samuel Gray and others the legislature in May, 1814, granted to the "Center District," the name applied to Windham Green, certain corporate privileges which were improved in measures for protection against fire. Some obstruction in the conditions or powers of the people under this and subsequent acts prevented the accomplishment of the purpose desired in that way, and a voluntary effort was made by the people, by which a fire engine was obtained. In June, 1821, the corporate fire district purchased of the private company their engine for \$180, and July 2d, George W. Webb, Henry Webb and Eliphalet Ripley were chosen fire wardens for the district, with instructions to enlist a fire company. A company of twenty-four was promptly formed. In addition, cisterns, wells, buckets and other apparatus for working at fires were provided and an engine house built, which stood in the vacant lot just back of the present Congregational church at Windham. The original hand engine is still preserved as a curious historic relic. In shape it is like a miniature rectangular coal barge, in dimensions six by two and a half feet at the top, and five by one and a half feet at the bottom, and a foot or more in depth. The body is mounted on a pair of low wheels. The two pump levers move horizontally across the top of the body, the handles running across them being long enough to allow two men at each lever to work them. The body is mounted by a cylindrical water dome, through which water was forced by two pistons connected with the levers. Water was brought in buckets and poured into the body at one end, whence it was drawn by the pump and discharged through a hose which at first was only four feet long, with a nozzle at the end. Twenty feet of hose was afterward purchased. The engine was provided with thills by which a horse could be used, but it was generally drawn by hand. By vigorous working it could be made to throw a half-inch stream fifty or sixty feet into the air.

The original company disbanded in 1850, and then the engine was sold to the late Justin Swift, in whose family it still remains.

As the growth of Willimantic increased the dangers from fire, some organized means of protection seemed necessary. As early as 1830 movements were made in that direction, but nothing was accomplished until after the incorporation of the borough. In October, 1833, fire wardens were elected, whose duty it was to direct the people who should volunteer to work at fires. Apparatus was also provided for, such as ladders, buckets, etc. An engine, similar to the Windham engine, was also procured. A company appears to have been formed at some time between 1830 and 1833, but its organization and members are matters of uncertainty, as no records appear to exist in relation to it. The number of fire wardens varied at different times, being three, four, five and at one time as great as thirteen. In 1837 the number of members in the company was allowed to be increased by ten. Certain privileges were allowed members of the fire company so that the ranks were easily filled when vacancies occurred. The need of some more effective means was felt, and by the logic of events in several disastrous fires it was shown that the old engine was not equal to the times, and the company seems to have become disorganized about the year 1850. The old engine was stored for a while, but in 1858 it was sold, together with the engine house and equipments. The engine house stood for many years on the "Jesse Spafford lot," now covered by the Hamlin block, and its exact location was on the northeast corner now occupied by W. N. Potter's drug store.

From the dates last mentioned up to 1868 there was no engine company or engine for extinguishing fires in the borough. The need of some means of protection was strongly urged, both by prudent minds and disastrous events. Efforts had been made in that direction the previous year, but nothing decisive had been accomplished. In the latter part of the year 1867 a committee was appointed to inquire into the cost of fire apparatus. The committee was instructed March 5th, 1868, to buy a second-hand engine which it had been ascertained was for sale at Greenville, Conn., for three hundred dollars. This was done. The engine was mounted on four wheels, and was operated by levers at which about twenty men could work at once. It was provided with suction pipe, and would draw water from a cistern or well and discharge it through a line of hose. Various

schemes for further improvement were agitated, but no definite plan was settled upon until November, 1872, when the borough ordered two chemical fire extinguishers of the New England Fire Extinguisher Company, at an expense of \$1,600. Meanwhile the Excelsior Hook and Ladder Company was formed, with Joel W. Webb as foreman, and the borough purchased them a truck provided with single and extension ladders, and other proper equipments. Two companies were formed to operate the chemical fire extinguishers. The first was called Fountain Fire Extinguisher No. 1, and the second, Fountain Fire Extinguisher No. 2. John Crawford was foreman of the first, and Samuel Hughes of the second. The original limit given to the membership of the hook and ladder company was thirty, and that of each of the extinguisher companies was twenty. The limits of the former have since been increased to forty, and each of the latter to thirty.

The fire department of Willimantic thus being organized, the election of a chief took place July 15th, 1873. Dwight E. Potter was chosen to that position. C. Seth Billings was made first assistant, Alex. L. Fuller, second assistant, and John B. Carpenter, third assistant. These officers were constituted the board of engineers, taking the place of the former fire wardens in the management of the fire department. Mr. Potter served with marked efficiency until the fall of 1880, when he was succeeded by C. Seth Billings, who served until the fall of 1884. He was then succeeded by Charles N. Daniels, the present effective chief engineer. Successive members of the board of engineers since the first board have been—George H. Purinton, Alex. L. Fuller, Joel W. Webb, George H. Millerd, H. L. Edgerton, M. E. Lincoln, Charles N. Daniels, Charles E. Leonard, Thomas Burke, Luke Flynn, Jr., and James Tighe.

In 1880 the Board of Fire Police was started, with six members, viz., M. E. Lincoln, Cyril Whittaker, Luke Flynn, Jr., C. M. Palmer, C. B. Pomeroy and Roland White. Their duties are to protect property exposed at fires, and to keep the crowd from interfering with the firemen, and they are empowered the same as regular policemen.

The chemical extinguishers did not prove satisfactory in their practical working, and were sold at auction in 1874. Their places were supplied by new hose carriages which were received in November, 1875, their cost being \$550 each. The companies now

changed their names. No. 1 became Alert Hose Company, and No. 2 adopted the name Montgomery Hose Company. John Tew was the first foreman of the Alerts and Jerry O'Sullivan of the Montgomerys. The supply of water from an elevated reservoir made the use of the engines for throwing water unnecessary for the greater part of the village at least. A Bucket Company was organized December 17th, 1877, as an independent company. It was supplied with a truck, ladders and buckets, the expense of which was borne by voluntary contributions from members or individual citizens of the borough. John Leonard was its first foreman. It entered the field with much enthusiasm and did good work, but after about five years its energies began to flag, and the borough not taking them under its control or patronage the company was disbanded in the spring of 1884. About a year later they sold their apparatus to the people of Windham Centre. Successive foremen of this company were Alex. Fuller, Howard R. Alford and James Johnson, after the first already named.

Within the last two or three years the borough has built and fitted up truck houses for the accommodation of its fire department, of which the citizens may justly be proud. Three commodious and substantial buildings have been provided. The house for Excelsior Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, stands on Bank street, nearly opposite the rear of the Hooker House. The truck house of the Alert Hose Company No. 1, is at No. 193 Main street, and the truck house of Montgomery Hose Company No. 2, is on Jackson street nearly opposite from the Roman Catholic church. In 1875 the borough was divided into four fire districts, which number has since been increased to seven. A code of alarm signals was at the same time established for making known the location of a fire. The alarm was at first struck by the Baptist and Methodist church bells only. In 1879 an electric alarm system, with alarm boxes in suitable places was established in connection with a gong on the Brainerd House, designed both to notify citizens of the district in which a fire may be and to signal for the starting of the mill pumps.

It is estimated that Willimantic has lost during the last quarter century about \$110,000 by fires occurring in the borough. We have not space here to recount all the fires which have occurred in the history of this village, but brief reference to two or three important ones may not be out of place. A sad casualty

of the kind was the burning of the old Potter tavern on the night of January 8th, 1842. This house stood on the site of the old National House, later the Revere House, and was managed by Niles Potter. The flames, which it is supposed caught behind a door from a broom that had been used to sweep up the fireplace—stoves were scarcely known then—were well under way before discovered, but the fire company and the villagers generally responded promptly to the alarm, and went to work with a will. The old engine was brought into requisition, a double line of men and women was quickly formed across lots down to the Willimantic river, or to "the cove" which used to set in there, and water was passed in pails and poured into the engine. In the building there stood an old fashioned brick chimney, which leaned, but had been supported by the woodwork. The latter burned away, and as Nathan Benchley, a well-known resident, was carrying out an armful of things by the back door, the chimney fell upon him with a terrible crash, crushing his life out instantly. And still another tragedy was to be revealed. A little ten-year-old girl by the name of Hutchins, who lived with Mr. and Mrs. Potter as an adopted child, had been sleeping with Mrs. Potter's sister Elizabeth in an upper room. When they were awakened by the alarm and smoke, the lady took the child by the hand and started for the stairs, let go of her hand at the narrow staircase, told the little one to follow and rushed out, only to find that the little girl, frightened or suffocated by smoke, had probably turned back, and it was then too late to save her. Her charred remains were afterward found in the ruins. Heroic efforts saved the adjoining property.

One of the most destructive fires that ever visited Willimantic occurred on the night of March 4th, 1868. It started in what was known as Robert Hooper's twin building, two small, one-story structures joined together and standing on the lot next west of the present Franklin Hall building. A deep snow lay on the ground at the time, but the citizens responded promptly to the alarm. No organized fire department then existed in the village, and no apparatus was at command save what had been provided by the individual enterprise of the cotton mill owners. A three-inch water pipe had been laid from the Smithville Company's works down Main street to the post office, through which power pumps at the mill could force water. The pumps were started, but through some defect in the pipes the water could

not be brought to bear on the fire until the latter was well under way. The flames rapidly communicated to the large wooden dwelling house of the late George C. Elliott, which stood next west of the twins, and also to the three-story wooden Franklin Hall building, owned by Messrs. Alpaugh & Hooper, which stood next east. The old Presbyterian church on the west, and the David Tucker house—now Chester Tilden's—on the east were only saved by vigorous efforts and surprising good fortune. The Tucker house was joined to the Franklin Hall building by a one-story apartment occupied by J. Rand Robertson as a jewelry store. Courageous persons on the roof of the Tucker house kept it wet down as best as they could, and the stream from the hydrant was turned alternately upon the jewelry store and the west side of the Tucker house. The tin roof over the Robertson shop was a great help, but it seemed as if nothing could save the Tucker house. Suddenly Dwight E. Potter and William B. Swift, then popular young men here, with reckless daring mounted the tin roof of the half burned jewelry shop, and there, surrounded and almost licked by flame, they stood and told the firemen where to turn their stream. "Young Potter" was especially daring and helpful to the hosemen, closely watching the flames and promptly directing the water upon each spot where they got a hold. This bravery proved the salvation of the Tucker house, and it came out of the struggle with only a badly scorched side. Even part of the jewelry shop was saved, and some of the present shelves on the east side were there then.

February 27th, 1876, occurred the most disastrous fire in the history of Willimantic, of about the same extent as that of the Franklin Hall and other buildings in 1868, but more deplorable in its results. Three large buildings were burned, one of wood, including Starkweather's grist mill and a flock mill (where the fire started), the next of brick, including the Atwood Machine and the Conant Silk companies, the third a storehouse. They stood on Valley street, in order from west to east as named, and the present Bank street crosses about where the Atwood Machine Company's building stood. There was no insurance on the flock mill's or the machine company's stock. The buildings were insured. Mr. Starkweather never rebuilt here, and both the Atwood Machine and the Conant Silk companies removed elsewhere, to the regret of our citizens, as they employed many hands. There was some delay in getting water at this fire, but

the chief difficulty, and the main cause of such a heavy disaster, was the lack of sufficient hose to reach the fire effectively.

Another destructive fire occurred here February 26th, 1885. This was one of the largest fires that had ever visited the borough. The Cranston block, in the heart of the village, was burned and other adjoining buildings badly damaged. The losses on buildings were estimated as follows: Cranston building, \$3,500; George E. Elliott's building, \$10,000; Kellogg's building, \$2,000; McEvoy's building, \$1,000. Losses on contents were estimated at \$7,600 in the aggregate.

The Willimantic Water Works are a development which may be said to have begun with the efforts of the mill owners to protect themselves and their surroundings from fire in the early years of their enterprise. The first water pipe system outside of such private enterprises was a three-inch pipe laid along Main street from the Smithville Company's mills down to the post office and up High street to the house of Robert Hooper, near Valley street, about the year 1853. The expense was borne by the company and the property owners along the line, and the company contracted to work the pumps whenever the alarm of fire was given. The system proved efficient, and as large a stream could be sent out as can be obtained from any hydrant now in the borough. It is still kept in working order for use in case of emergencies.

After many years spent in discussing and "proposing various schemes for supplying the village with water for the extinguishing of fires, a contract was finally made with the mill companies along the river to furnish power for pumping water through a system of pipes to be laid through the principal streets, with hydrants at convenient points. The mill owners were to be allowed for such service a rebate of one-half their taxes to the borough. Much opposition to the plan prevailed for a time, but it was finally put into execution with the decided support of the people of the borough. September 13th, 1873, the borough voted to allow the warden and burgesses to borrow money to lay the pipes. The work soon after began and was continued, though opposition appeared at every step and it was impeded somewhat by perplexing litigation, which, however, did not succeed in preventing the execution of the plan. The system completed, was connected with the force pumps of the Smithville, Windham, and Linen companies, and the pressure attainable as 150 pounds to the square inch.

This system seemed to be all that was required for protection against fires, but with the growth of the village a want soon became apparent for a system of supplying water for household purposes. In 1880 Messrs. Whiting, James E. and Willard W. Hayden applied to the general assembly for corporate privileges as a water company, with the necessary rights of entering upon property for the specified purposes, with the design of meeting this growing want. Through the influences brought to bear by the people of the borough, who were not in favor of water being supplied to the village by a private company, the incorporation was not effected.

In July, 1882, steps were taken to consider the practical questions regarding the establishment of public water works, and the idea became so popular that the borough, at a meeting November 13th, decided to ask the burgesses to petition the assembly for an amendment to their charter which would allow them to undertake such an enterprise. In accordance with such petition the amendment was granted at the May session of 1883. August 18th, 1883, the borough accepted the water charter by a ballot of 194 to 16. January 8th, 1884, George W. Burnham was elected water commissioner for one year, E. B. Sumner for two years, and Henry N. Wales for three years. The regular year begins January 1st. By a vote taken at a borough meeting held July 9th, 1884, it was decided, by a vote of 277 against 42, that public water works should be constructed to supply the village from the Natchaug river. The commissioners were at the same time authorized to issue bonds to the amount of \$200,000 to carry out the plan. The bonds were in due time issued, and bore date October 1st, 1884, being in four equal classes, to run respectively fifteen, twenty, twenty-five and thirty years, bearing interest at four per cent. per annum. The work was then pushed forward. A dam and pumping station, and engineer's house were erected at Conantville, about one and a half miles north of the village, on the Natchaug, and a reservoir was built on Hosmer mountain, south of the village. This reservoir has a capacity of five million gallons. More than twelve miles of iron pipes have been laid through the streets. The pumping capacity is two thousand gallons per minute. Water from the clear Natchaug stream is thus driven to the reservoir, which is elevated several hundred feet above the village, and thence it is led by pipes to the village, having pres-

sure sufficient to cover any building in the place with a stream from a line of hose. The pressure is so great that in dealing with fires no engines are necessary.

Willimantic has shown great liberality in the management of its schools. For this purpose the borough is divided into two districts known as No. 1 and No. 2. The grand lists of both amount to nearly four million dollars. The value of all school property in the borough is about fifty thousand dollars. The new school building in District No. 1 is commodious, cheerful and convenient. It is located in a large yard occupying the corner of Valley and another street, and in the yard are two other school buildings. The oldest one of these was erected in 1857, and has a seating capacity of 250; the second one was erected in 1865, and has a seating capacity of 150; and the third, a high-school building, was erected in 1884, and has seats for 200. This school, occupying the three buildings, has an average attendance of about five hundred. The dividing line between the two districts is at North street. District No. 2 covers that part of the borough lying east of that street. This is sometimes called the Natchaug district. The school building is situated on Jackson street, adjoining the Roman Catholic church. It was built in 1864, and it has a seating capacity of about six hundred, with an average attendance of about five hundred. The building is in excellent repair and is in an ample yard, ornamented with shade trees.

The furniture of the school buildings is nearly all modern and of an excellent model. The physical and chemical apparatus with which the high-school department in each district is provided is nearly all that could be desired for the special work to which it is adapted. The school libraries contain 1,000 or more volumes. Globes, maps and books are there in commendable numbers for the use of the primary and grammar grades. There are twenty-one teachers and seventeen school rooms, besides recitation and ante-rooms. In each district there is a high-school department where pupils have been and still are successfully fitted for college. From these high schools nearly one hundred have graduated.

St. Joseph's Parochial school is located at the corner of Jackson and Valley streets. It is under the care of the sisters of charity connected with St. Joseph's Roman Catholic church. This school has twelve teachers and its attendance numbers

about six hundred pupils. The buildings contain ten school rooms. The teachers are sisters of charity belonging to the local "Convent of our Lady of Lourdes." This school also has a high-school department, from which several pupils have graduated. A special advantage of the pupils of the parochial school is an opportunity of learning the French language in connection with the English.

In addition to the educational advantages of Willimantic already mentioned, we may name two public libraries, one conducted by the borough and the other by the Linen Company. The former is located in the bank building, corner of Main and Bank streets, and contains over 2,700 volumes. It is open certain hours on specified days of the week. The Linen Company's library, in Dunham Hall, at the lower junction of Main and Union streets, contains about 2,500 volumes, and files of the leading American and English periodicals. It is free to all, and is open from noon to nine o'clock at night daily. The books of these libraries comprise standard works of permanent value in the various departments of literature.

All that part of the town of Windham lying west of the junction of the Windham and South Windham roads leading out of Willimantic, and extending west as far as the cemetery, was early organized into two school districts. The first school house in the First district was a one-story structure about 20 by 30 feet, located about where the Windham Manufacturing Company's east dwelling house now is, on Main street. The increase of scholars, however, soon demanded increased accommodations; and the school house was removed to the lot now occupied by the district for their several school houses. The building was enlarged, making two rooms and employing two teachers. This accommodated the district until 1847, when the district contracted with General Baldwin for the erection of a new school building some 36 by 60 feet, two stories in height, with three rooms for the different departments. The first teacher employed by the district was John G. Clark, of Franklin, who became a prominent resident of Windham. The next teacher employed was Horace Hall, coming here from Sterling in 1825. The next teacher was that veteran in the ranks of schoolmasters, Leonard R. Dunham; after him Doctor William A. Bennett, long a resident here; William L. Weaver, a native of this place; Saxton B. Little, E. McCall Cushman, Jabez S. Lathrop and Perry Ben-

nett successively filled the position of teacher in the First district in the early days of Willimantic.

The first school house erected in the Second district occupied the location on the south side of the river near the residence of Dennis McCarthy. It was a small one-story building, and was soon replaced by a larger structure located on the north side of the river, between the Linen Company's spool shop and what is now their thread mill No. 1. The site being wanted for the second cotton mill erected by the Messrs. Jillson, a new location was provided by the district. From opposite of the store now occupied by Edward F. Casey the roads diverged, the north one about on the present line of travel, the south one extending almost to the bridge, being a part of the old Windham and Coventry turnpike, thence eastward along the north side of the river past Shackel dam, uniting with the main road near the Linen Company's store. On this triangular piece of ground between the roads on the river side, the Second district located their school house. It was a wooden structure with two rooms. It was, after a few years replaced by a two-story stone building affording additional accommodations required by the growth of the district. Of the early teachers a few are the following: Roger Southworth, some three terms; Samuel L. Hill, one term; Doctor Calvin Bromley, Doctor Eleazer Bentley, William Kingsley, Robert Stewart, Leander Richardson, William L. Weaver and Frederick F. Barrows.

The religious sentiment of Willimantic is now represented by six churches, viz., Congregational, Methodist, Baptist, Roman Catholic, Protestant Episcopal and Spiritualist. These have all been built up here since the year 1827. Up to the close of that year there was no church nearer than Windham Centre, nor any stated meetings except such as were held in a school house or in private houses. In the year mentioned a few persons here applied to the directors of the Connecticut Domestic Missionary Society for a minister. In response, Dennis Platt, who was just completing his theological course at New Haven, was sent to them. Mr. Platt states that this was designed as an experiment "to test the question whether an Evangelical church could be established in a manufacturing village." Mr. Platt's first appointment was extended to twelve weeks. Then a society of ladies in Tolland county agreed to sustain Mr. Platt three months longer. So, it appears, a ministry was sustained for six months

with no charge to the people, except that a few individuals gave him his board.

January 22d, 1828, an ecclesiastical council was called, of which Doctor Samuel Nott, of Franklin, was chosen moderator, and this council organized the First Congregational church of Wilimantic. The sixteen persons who were thus formed into a church were Deacon Charles Lee, John Brown, Eliphalet Brown, Azariah Balcam, Nathaniel Robinson, Sr., Sybil Brown, Olive Brown, Phebe Robinson, Anniss Brown, Lucy Howes, Lydia Balcam, Alatheia Littlefield, Beulah Littlefield, Anna Robinson, Seth Jillson and Joseph H. Brown. Of these, twelve were former members of the church of Windham, two of the church of Scotland, and two others were not previously connected anywhere. By additions the membership of the church was increased in 1829 to forty-five. The first four or five years were very prosperous in spiritual things to the infant church; four years from its organization it numbered about one hundred members. A church edifice was immediately erected, and was dedicated October 17th, 1828, Doctor Joel Hawes preaching the sermon. This was the first house of worship in the place. The expense of building it was a burden from which those who undertook it delivered themselves only after a determined struggle. The present society was formed soon after the church was built. During its first ten years the church received an average amount of one hundred dollars annually from the Connecticut Domestic Missionary Society toward meeting its running expenses. The church was at first consociated with Tolland county churches, but in 1831, for greater convenience, it united with the consociation of Windham county. In 1843 the house of worship was considerably enlarged. In May, 1857, the congregation began to use the Congregational Hymn and Tune Book in its musical services.

Reverend Dennis Platt remained as a stated supply from August, 1827, to the autumn of 1829. He was followed by Reverend Ralph S. Campton, who served as stated supply from May, 1830, to April, 1832. Nearly three years followed with no regular minister, when Reverend Philo Judson was installed pastor, December 18th, 1834. He was dismissed March 21st, 1839. His successor was Reverend Andrew Sharpe, who was ordained here September 23d, 1840. His pastorate continued for a longer term than any that had preceded him. He was dismissed June 12th, 1849. Samuel G. Willard was ordained as pastor November 8th

of the same year. He enjoyed a long pastorate, closing his labors with his dismissal, which took effect September 2d, 1868. His successor was Reverend Horace Winslow, who was installed April 28th, 1869.

On the acceptance of the call of Reverend Horace Winslow, the question of a new house of worship was earnestly advocated, and on February 24th, 1869, the society resolved to proceed to the work, and accordingly appointed a building committee composed of John Tracy, Allen Lincoln, William C. Jillson and the pastor elect. In July of that year the corner stone was laid, and in one year from that time the main edifice was dedicated to the worship of God. The expenses of this enterprise were provided for in various ways. To begin with, the society had from subscriptions and the sale of the old house \$19,578. This fund was steadily increased by special efforts, so that when the main portion of the building was completed the debt was only a little over \$9,000. In May, 1871, the chapel was completed and dedicated to the service of God. In about a year from that time it was proposed to pay off the whole debt of the society, which amounted then to \$12,600. This amount was raised by the 1st of October, 1872. The whole cost of church, grounds, chapel, furniture, organ and all, amounted to \$46,700, and it had all been paid, so that the society was free from debt. A service of praise and gratulation was held in view of the auspicious financial condition. Since then money has been raised and the chapel and adjoining rooms have been painted, carpeted and seated. The size of the main edifice on the ground is one hundred by sixty-three feet, and the chapel addition and adjoining room is ninety by thirty-six feet.

Reverend Horace Winslow was dismissed April 28th, 1881. He was succeeded by Reverend Samuel R. Free, who served the church as a stated supply from November 6th, 1881, to May, 1888. He was followed by Reverend Andrew J. Sullivan, who was installed as pastor in September, 1888.

The first Baptist church of Willimantic was organized in the house of Reverend Chester Tilden, the first pastor, and under whose labors it was gathered. Its constituent members were Mr. W. M. Barrows, Miss Esther Smith, Charles Thompson, Samuel Barrows, William Barrows, Elisha Whiting, Eliphalet Martin, Rescome Coggshall, George Byrne, Mahelable F. Barrows, Betsey Barrows, Dura Whiting, Armina Martin, Susan Coggshall,

Lydia Smith, Esther Smith, Hannah White, Laura Balcam, Clarinda Parker and Mary Lawrence. The church was organized October 20th, 1827. At first the school houses were used for meetings, but a spirit of opposition arose and they were debarred this privilege. With aid from abroad they succeeded in building a meeting house on the site at present occupied. The site was purchased of Alfred Howes, and Messrs. Reed, Hardin and Fenton, of Mansfield, were contracted with to erect the church. The building, being completed, was dedicated May 27th, 1829. A Sabbath school was immediately organized. Samuel Barrows, Jr., and Eliphalet Martin were elected deacons. The following ministers have served the church from the beginning to the present time: Chester Tilden, 1827-31; Alfred Gates, January to April, 1831; Alva Gregory, 1831-34; Benajah Cook, 1834-40; John B. Guild, 1840-45; L. W. Wheeler, 1845-47; Thomas Dowling, 1847-49; Henry Bromley, 1850-51; Cyrus Miner, 1851-52; Henry R. Knapp, 1853-54; Edward Bell, 1854-57; Jabez S. Swan, 1857-59; E. D. Bentley, 1859-66; E. S. Wheeler, 1866-67; G. R. Darrow, 1868-69; P. S. Evans, 1869-73; W. A. Fenn, 1873-78; George W. Holman, 1879-87; M. G. Coker, 1888 to the present time. The following are the present officers: A. H. Fuller, William B. Hawkins, J. Ellison, E. S. Sumner, deacons; William N. Potter, secretary; J. Hawkins, treasurer. The membership has reached about four hundred. The church is a neat and commodious building, which, with the lot it stands upon, is valued at twenty-five thousand dollars. Connected with the church is a vigorous Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor and a large and flourishing Sunday school.

At an obscure date—probably about 1825—a Methodist family, Jonathan Fuller, his wife and two daughters, lived in a house then standing near the present stone bridge over the Willimantic, they being the only family of that denomination in the place. They held family class meetings for some time before anyone else joined them. Mr. Fuller was formerly a Congregationalist, but had become a Methodist and was appointed the first class leader in 1828. He brought the first minister of the Methodist Episcopal church into Willimantic. This was the Reverend Gardner, who, about 1826, came and preached in the West school house. From this time forward preaching was had in the school houses with some approach to regularity, by ministers of some of the neighboring circuits. The first Methodist meeting

house was finished in September, 1829, and it stood on the spot now occupied by the Atwood Block on Main street, opposite Railroad street. About the same time the church was organized with between thirty and forty members, mostly females, and Reverend Horace Moulton became its pastor. The site of the house of worship was purchased for \$125, and the building cost \$700. This building was afterward removed to Church street, and is now (1889) standing near the new Methodist church on that street.

The church was in 1829 made a Sabbath appointment on the Tolland circuit, which was then known as a "six weeks' circuit." Some of the difficulties which met the church in its early struggles are suggested by the following passage from the records: "Judge Hurlburt lent the means to pay the debts of the church, and at times one or two men were required to keep off rowdies, who whistled, stamped and hallooed and put cayenne pepper on the stove." The present church edifice was begun in the summer of 1850, during the ministry of Reverend Jonathan Cady. It was dedicated in March, 1851, with a sermon by Reverend Doctor Stephen Olin. Its cost was about \$7,000. The pew rents were applied to liquidate the debt, and the ministry was supported by subscription. The debt was further reduced by keeping boarders at the Willimantic camp meeting, which began in 1860, and the indebtedness was finally removed under the pastorate of George W. Brewster in 1864. The church was remodeled and very much improved, and a parsonage was built on Prospect street, under the pastorate of Edgar F. Clark, in 1868 and 1869. It was enlarged in 1882 at a cost of \$7,000. In 1886 a handsome pipe organ was placed in it. The membership of the church in 1889 is 360. The successive pastors of this church have been: Horace Moulton and Daniel Fletcher, 1828; H. Moulton, H. Ramsdell and P. Townsend, 1829; E. Beebe and George May, 1830; J. E. Raisley, 1831; Hebron Vincent, 1832; K. Ward, 1833; Mosely Dwight, 1834; Philetus Green, 1836; S. Leonard, 1837; H. Horbush, 1837; K. Ward, 1838; Reuben Ransom, 1839; Pardon T. Kenney, 1840; A. C. Wheat, 1842; F. W. Bill, 1843; Charles Noble, 1844; John Cooper, 1845; Daniel Dorchester, 1847; A. Robinson, 1848; Jonathan Cady, 1850; N. P. Alderman, 1852; George W. Rogers, 1854; Charles Morse, 1855; William Purington, 1857; John Levesy, 1859; William Kellen, 1860; E. B. Bradford, 1862; George W. Brewster, 1864; Edgar F.

Clark, 1867; George E. Reed, 1870; Charles S. McReading, 1872; Shadrach Leader, 1873; George W. Miller, 1874; S. J. Carroll, 1875; William T. Worth, 1878; A. S. Church, 1879; S. McBurney, 1881; D. P. Leavitt, 1883; Eben Tirrell, 1886; C. W. Holden, 1887. The dates given in the foregoing list denote the beginning of each pastorate.

The first colony of Irish Catholics came to locate in Willimantic in the summer of 1847. But few representatives of that nation were then living here, and the little band of twenty foreigners, with but little of this world's goods to encumber them, was visited with much curiosity, and their coming was the subject of considerable excitement. They came at the instance of the Windham Manufacturing Company, who sent for five persons, but their call was responded to by four times that number. The greater part of them, however, were employed by the company, while the balance readily found work at the other factories in the village. This was the opening wedge of Irish labor, which has grown by frequent accessions to be one of the most powerful elements in the industry of this community.

The first mass celebrated in this village was in the kitchen in the basement of the Lathrop house, on the corner of Washington and Main streets, at which Reverend Father Brady, of Middletown, officiated. The first public Catholic service was held in Franklin Hall, in the fall of 1849, by the same pastor, and was witnessed by a large number of our citizens. Services in this hall, and at Brainerd Hall, were kept up at intervals of one or two months, Reverend Father McCab, of Danielsonville, having charge during a part of the time up to 1858, when the Baptist society, being about to build a new church, sold their old edifice to the Catholics, and it was moved to Jackson street. At that time there were eight families of communicants residing in the village, and to show the pecuniary circumstances of the society it is only necessary to state that an attachment, for a debt of only a few dollars, was served on their building before the mover's blocks were taken from it. The first pastor was Reverend H. I. Riley; the second, Reverend Daniel Mullen, later of St. Mary's church, Norwich. In May, 1863, the present much beloved pastor, Reverend Florimonde De Bruycker, assumed the charge of this society, and under his ministrations the church has been most signally prospered. For the first few years but one service was held each Sunday, the pastor's charge embracing

Baltic, Stafford and Coventry; but with the building of churches and the settlement of resident pastors in the two first named villages, he has been enabled for many years to devote his time principally to this people.

The old church was enlarged, refitted and repaired, but the addition of a large number of French Canadian Catholics to the population, and steady increase from other sources, rendered the old building wholly inadequate for the needs of the congregation, and in 1872 steps were taken toward the erection of a new building. The work was pushed vigorously forward, and in May, 1873, the old church was removed to Valley street and on its site the foundation walls for the new were commenced. On Sunday, August 17th, the corner stone was laid amid imposing ceremonies, Bishop McFarland being present, and Reverend Father Walsh, of St. Peter's church, Hartford, delivering an eloquent sermon. The contributions received on that day amounted to \$3,000. The church, having been completed, was dedicated November 26th, 1874. The style is Gothic, with nave and aisles, and a clear story supported by clustered columns and arcade arches. From the basement walls, which are formed of very handsome granite, the church is built of brick. The size on the ground is 156 by 64 feet; the height of side walls, 24 feet, and height from floor to peak of roof, 66 feet. A graceful tower on the northwest corner is surmounted with a spire, the cross on the top of which is 172 feet above the curbstone. The audience room has fourteen double gothic memorial windows of cathedral stained glass, and other parts of the edifice have thirty-five smaller windows. The building is an elegant one in all its details of finish and furnishing, and has a seating capacity of one thousand five hundred. The church is known as St. Joseph's church.

The first Episcopalian service in Willimantic of which we have any knowledge was held a little over twenty-five years ago. A mission was started soon after by the late Dr. Hallam, and by him conducted for several years. The mission was held in several different halls and its work was prosperous. The last hall occupied was Dunham Hall, belonging to the Linen Company. Reverend Lemuel H. Wells, now of Tacoma, Washington, was the first permanent missionary rector. During his incumbency effort was made to obtain a building, and under his leadership it was carried to a successful termination. A building which

was no longer required by the parish at Central Village was donated to this locality and the people here bore the cost of taking it down and removing it to this place. Here it was rebuilt and improved and ornamented. This was done in the year 1883. Previous to this time services were sustained by different rectors of the archdeaconry located at contiguous points. The resident rectors have been: Lemuel H. Wells from December, 1882, to May, 1883; R. C. Searing from June, 1883, to March, 1886, and H. B. Jefferson from May 1st, 1886, to the present time. The lot on which the church stands was donated by the late Mrs. Eunice R. Heap. The part of the lot on which the parsonage stands was obtained of the same estate. The parsonage, built and owned by the diocese, was completed in the fall of 1887, on the church lot corner of Valley and Walnut streets, and sufficient land remains on the plot for a site for a larger edifice at some future time.

The number of baptisms under the auspices of this church has reached one hundred and seventy-four. The present number of communicants is sixty-eight. A Sunday school has been maintained since the mission was established. The present number in it is about seventy, with an average attendance of forty to fifty. The church building is valued at \$2,000, the lot at \$2,000 and the parsonage at \$3,200. With reference to the benefactress of this church, whose name has been mentioned, a local paper has the following tribute:

"Mrs. Eunice R., relict of the late Geo. P. Heap, and an old resident of this village, died at her home on Main street Saturday morning at the advanced age of 86 years. Mrs. Heap was born in East Hampton, the youngest of a family of nine children, all of whom are now dead, and was the daughter of Dr. John Richmond. Early in life she married Dr. Smith, a student in her father's office, by whom she had one child, Prudence, who became the wife of the late Daniel Lord. After the death of Dr. Smith she wedded David Kellogg and subsequently was united to the late George R. Heap. She was a woman of strong individuality, sterling integrity, always just and of unalterable decision. She was not illiberal and gave where she was inclined. The Episcopal church is indebted to her for the free gift of the lot on which the parsonage is to stand."

Spiritualists have been organized and actively at work here for something like thirty years. A building was erected on Bank

street in 1867 and dedicated in February, 1868. This stands nearly opposite the rear of the Hooker House. It is a substantial, plain structure, containing vestry and audience rooms and is capable of seating three to four hundred persons. It is called Excelsior Hall. The society is regularly incorporated under the title of the "First Spiritualist Society of Willimantic." Its living membership at the present time is about forty. During all these years lectures have been maintained on Sundays with more or less regularity. A Sunday school, called the "Children's Progressive Lyceum," was organized before the house was built and has been maintained ever since, its present number being about forty. These Sunday lectures are by different lecturers, ladies and gentlemen, none resident, and some are mediums while some are not. Lectures have been had nearly every Sunday during the past year, about one thousand dollars being expended in the meantime for that purpose.

Mission Hall is the name applied to a meeting of a religious character which is regularly maintained in a hall in Willimantic Savings Institute building. The hall is capable of seating perhaps one hundred and fifty to two hundred people. The tone of the society is severely orthodox, including anti-masonic and anti-tobacco sentiments. The movement was started about four or five years ago, being headed by Mr. John A. Conant, and it has some forty or fifty attendants upon religious services which are held every Sunday.

One of the institutions for which Willimantic is noted throughout a wide circle of country is the annual camp meeting held here. This attracts many thousand visitors from all parts of the land. From small beginnings this has become a movement of considerable magnitude. The first land for a camp ground was purchased in 1860 by leading Methodists and conveyed the following year to the trustees of the Willimantic Camp Meeting Association, which meanwhile had been duly formed and organized on a legal basis. Other purchases were subsequently made so that now the ground comprises about thirty acres on a sloping hillside, covered with natural growth and commanding an extensive view, with an audience circle capable of seating five thousand people, streets regularly laid out, tents, cottages, boarding house and every convenience for accommodating the great multitude who annually enjoy its esthetic and spiritual privileges.

Camp meeting, as the years go by, has been gradually assuming a quiet season, much in contrast with the hurly-burly and boisterous demonstrations of years ago. And it must be said that on this account it commands the respect and favor of the order loving community in a degree corresponding to this change. No longer are the grounds the rendezvous of reckless and pleasure-bent people who care nothing for religion, but they are now the scene of undisturbed devotional services and are productive of much good. Perhaps no better idea can be given of the working of this institution than to quote some extracts from the report of the camp meeting of 1887, which is before us. The report is made up under date of Wednesday, August 31st:

"The annual meeting of the Willimantic Camp Meeting Association was held last Wednesday afternoon and resulted in the choice of the following officers: President, the Reverend Edward Edson, of Willimantic; vice-president, the Reverend J. H. James, of Rockville; secretary, the Reverend C. A. Stenhouse, of Thompsonville; treasurer, Huber Clark, Esq., of Willimantic; trustee for five years, C. H. Parker, Esq., of Rockville; executive committee for three years, R. N. Stanley, Esq., David Gordon, of Hazardville, and the Reverend Eben Tirrell, of Niantic.

"Thursday opened bright and beautiful, and by ten o'clock the grove was in a suitable condition for an out-door meeting, and the congregation sang a hymn of praise to God for the sunshine. Reverend Henry Tuckley, of Providence, preached the morning sermon. During the sermon a large company gathered from every direction, and the afternoon service opened with something like an old-time audience. The veteran Harry Wilson was present and led the singing, which put new life into this branch of the service. The Reverend E. M. Taylor preached an eloquent sermon. In the evening, Reverend E. Tirrell, of Niantic, preached to a large and attentive audience.

"At the business meeting on Wednesday, the question of holding services on Sunday next year was fully discussed, and opinions both for and against were expressed. A motion to modify arrangements so as to prevent carriages coming on or going from the grounds on Sunday, and to stop sales on Sunday, even of boarding tickets, etc., met with favor, but was finally tabled until to-day by common consent. The matter was taken up again at the business meeting Friday afternoon, and it was voted to hold the camp meeting over Sunday next year as usual, but with

restrictions. The gates will be closed against all teams. The restaurant will be closed, and no persons will be allowed to buy boarding tickets on that day.

"Estimated by attendance or by conversions, this has been one of the most remarkable meetings on a ground already noted for remarkable meetings. Several prominent preachers say that the preaching this year has excelled in variety, spirituality and results. One who has seen great camp meetings west of the Alleghany mountains says he never saw a Sunday afternoon service followed by such a number of seekers after salvation as were in the anxious seats Sunday afternoon.

"Many of the campers were making preparations for departure during the day, and the camp wore an aspect of coming desertion which always carries with it an element of sadness. Friends were parting with friends, brethren with brethren, some never to meet again on the shores of time. The meeting has been a very quiet and orderly one throughout, and will be one long remembered by those who have had the good fortune to be among the regular attendants."

Colonel William L. Jillson and Captain John H. Capen early associated themselves as partners in business, under the firm name of Jillson & Capen, for manufacturing cotton-making machinery. They carried on the business to a large extent, giving employment to a large number of mechanics, and thus adding to the prosperity of the village. In 1845, having purchased at some previous time the premises and water rights where the first cotton mill in Willimantic was built, they, in connection with Austin Dunham, formed the Wells Company, and named this location Wellsville, which was considered an improvement on the former cognomen of "Sodom," by which it had been known for a long time. A three-story mill and a number of dwellings were completed and in use early in the season of 1846.

During the summer of 1845, Messrs. Amos D. and James Y. Smith, of Providence, purchased of Hill & Arnold what was known as the Deacon Lee property, which had been in their possession for some years without any extensive improvements. They were known as the Smithville Company, having associated with them Whiting Hayden as their local agent and manager, he having located here about three years previous. Under his efficient management a large stone mill was erected, and the fol-

lowing season a large store house and three large tenement houses on Main street.

The business of the Windham Manufacturing Company having been successful, they decided in the fall of 1827 to erect a larger mill than was in operation in this county. Preparations were made accordingly, foundations were prepared, materials contracted for, and by the 1st of April, 1828, work was commenced upon their east mill. In connection with the mill the company built the four houses on Main street, and all were completed and in use before the close of the year. The company also built a substantial stone dam across the river the same season. A. C. Tingley, who was at first local agent, was succeeded by Hartford Tingley, and he in turn was followed by John Tracy, a careful, conservative business man, who retained that position until his death in 1874. Mr. Tracy was a liberal contributor for the maintenance of religious institutions, a warm friend to education, and in his death the corporation with which he had been associated for over forty years, as well as the community in which he lived, sustained a great loss. The company have from time to time made additions and improvements to their premises. The present local agent is Thomas C. Chandler. The present owners are Robert W. Watson, son of the original Matthew, Thomas C. Chandler and Matthew Watson, son of Robert W. The main office of the company is in Providence, R. I. The mills are built of stone, and contain about eighty thousand square feet of floor space. They are furnished with eighteen thousand spindles and four hundred and sixty-eight looms. To drive the machinery their water wheels have three hundred and forty horse-power, and they have engines of three hundred horse-power for use in dry times. About two hundred and fifty hands are employed. Lawns, twills, forty-inch sheetings, pocketings and crinkle goods are manufactured equivalent to one hundred and twelve thousand yards of print cloths a week. Thirty-eight bales of cotton are consumed weekly in this manufacture. The original mill of 1822 is the south half of the present west mill. Spur tracks from the New England and the New London Northern railroads run to the store houses to accommodate shipping. A reservoir at Bolton, covering about five hundred acres, is owned by this and the Smithville and Linen Companies about equally.

Just below the Windham Company's works are situated the

works of the Smithville Manufacturing Company, of the early building and operations of which mention has already been made. This concern was largely owned by Whiting Hayden, the former resident agent, but in October, 1887, it passed into the hands of the present company, most of whom belong in Providence. The treasurer of the company is Mr. O. A. Washburn, Jr. Cotton goods are manufactured here, and 275 to 300 hands are employed. The mills are fitted with twenty-one thousand spindles and five hundred and eight looms. Three water wheels are used, and when water fails, a double steam-engine of three hundred and fifty horse-power stands ready to drive the machinery. Forty bales of cotton a week are used, and the annual product is about four and a half million yards.

But of all the manufacturing establishments of this town the Willimantic Linen Company's works are the most conspicuous and important. They occupy the stream next in order of position below, or eastward, from the Smithville Company. This company has a capital stock of two million dollars, and a skilled force of two thousand employees. Here are manufactured the celebrated linen thread and spool cotton which bear the name Willimantic like a household word all over the civilized world. They occupy four large mills designated by number. No. 1 is the oldest one of all, and stands near the heart of the borough, next below the Smithville works. This is a stone mill, and is surrounded by other buildings—a spool shop, store houses, tenements, etc. Main street crosses the river just at the lower end of this mill. Just below this stands No. 2 mill, a handsome stone structure, about four hundred feet long, sixty feet wide, and five stories high, with wings at the west end about one hundred and fifty feet long and two stories high. Still lower down the stream stands mill No. 3, a wooden building of much smaller size. This is about one hundred and seventy-five feet long, forty feet wide, and has five floors, including the mansard roof. The three mills thus far noticed stand on the left bank of the stream, between it and the main street of the village. On the other side of the stream stands No. 4, the mammoth cotton mill of all, and one of the largest in the world. It is for the most part a one-story building, but in some of its parts one or two additional stories beneath were required to accommodate the inequalities of the surface. This mill is claimed to be the largest cotton mill on the ground floor in the world. It is 820 feet long, 174 feet wide, and

has two wings 81 by 48 feet each, and four porches 45 by 32 feet each. It is built of brick with stone foundation. The boiler house is 80 feet square. The building presents 303,000 square feet of floor surface. In its construction 5,500 cubic yards of stone work were laid up, and 1,900,000 bricks were used. The wood work also required 450,000 feet of timber, 1,500,000 feet of lumber, and in building it 30,000 cubic yards of earth were removed. Power is furnished by five pair of engines of 250 horse-power each, and water power also may be applied to the extent of 1,100 horse-power. The mill is supplied with 50,000 spindles.

The yards of all these mills are contiguous, and Nos. 1, 2 and 4 mills are connected by a private railroad, with small locomotive, which runs from one to another as occasion requires, supplying each with material or taking away the products to points of shipment by one or another of the railroads which concentrate in this town. Each of the mills is furnished with steam engines sufficient to run it when the water power fails. Besides the numerous houses erected by the company for the accommodation of their operatives, Dunham Hall, a substantial stone building, has been provided for the intellectual benefits of employees. It is situated at the lower junction of Main and Union streets. Here is kept the company's library of about 2,500 volumes, which is free to all. It also contains assembly rooms where meetings and evening schools are sometimes held. The company's interest in and endeavors to elevate the moral and social condition of their employees are practically shown in their elegant and well-kept library and reading rooms in this building, which are finished in natural woods and warmed and lighted, and liberally supplied with books, magazines, and the scientific and daily papers. The use of it is free to all, including residents of surrounding towns. The library is at present under the efficient care of Miss Jenny L. Ford, librarian. The company's homes for the operatives are models of cottage architecture, while the streets and all the surroundings are kept with scrupulous care. Mr. E. S. Boss is the efficient and public spirited agent of the company at Willimantic. The fairness with which this company treat their employees is further evidenced by the fact, equally creditable to employers and employees, that no labor strike has ever occurred in the history of their operations. The company was incorporated in 1856. Their main office is at 389 Allyn street, Hartford. The officers of the company at present are:

Lucius A. Barbour, president and treasurer; Austin Dunham, vice-president; E. H. Clark, secretary; E. S. Boss, agent; John Scott, superintendent.

The Holland Silk Manufacturing Company is one of the important industries of Willimantic. In 1865, two brothers, James H. and Goodrich Holland, came here from Mansfield and commenced building a factory. They were already engaged in the manufacture of silk in Mansfield. They erected in Willimantic a building one hundred by forty-two feet, on the northeast corner of Church and Valley streets. This building was opened for business January 25th, 1866. They employed at that time from fifty to sixty hands, and produced 250 pounds of silk per week. The style of the firm was then J. H. & G. Holland, and in that form the name continued until 1868, when, owing to the death of the senior partner, the firm name was changed to Goodrich Holland. The death of the latter occurred in 1870, and the business was then conducted under the name of the Holland Silk Manufacturing Company, as it is now known. In 1873 they erected a brick building, similar in size to their old building, on the opposite corner of Church and Valley streets. They now employ two hundred hands and manufacture one thousand pounds a week, which is finished and made ready for the market in their own factories. They make sewing silk and machine twist for tailors, dress makers, boot and shoe makers, harness makers, and the like craftsmen and women. The principal office of the company is at 561 Broadway, New York, with branches at 19 High street, Boston, and 428 Market street, Philadelphia. Power to run their machinery is furnished by two engines, one of forty and the other of sixty horse-power. The works are lighted by electricity. The treasurer and resident agent is S. L. Burlingham; superintendent of the works, John A. Conant. In connection with the last-named gentleman the following item of history is of general interest, and we give it as we find it in a Hartford paper:

"One of the early inhabitants of old Windham was Mr. Exercise Conant, a native of Salem, Mass., who came to this town and bought a house and 1,000 acres of land. He subsequently went to Lebanon, thence to Boston and finally came back to this town, where he spent the remainder of his life. His grandson, Shubael Conant, was licensed to preach by the Windham County association, but did not assume any charge. He represented

Mansfield (then of Windham county) in the legislature thirty sessions. He was a member of the governor's council from 1760 to 1775 and member of the council of safety at the breaking out of the Revolutionary war. From these early settlers sprang the Conants so numerous in Mansfield and Superintendent John Conant of the Holland silk works in this place."

The W. G. & A. R. Morrison Company commenced the manufacture of silk and cotton machinery in Willimantic in 1875, under the firm name of W. G. & J. H. Morrison. They manufactured about \$15,000 worth of machinery annually, and employed about ten hands. In 1878 the firm was joined by A. R. Morrison and the name W. G. & A. R. Morrison was adopted. The capacity of the works was gradually increased. In July, 1883, a joint stock company was formed under the present name, and they now employ about ninety men and turn out machinery to the value of about \$150,000 a year. These products are shipped to all parts of the world. They occupy part of a new brick building, built by them in 1888, which is 150 by 50 feet on the ground and four stories high. Their works are driven by steam altogether, being supplied with an engine of 100 horse-power. The officers of the company are: Ansel Arnold, president; W. G. Morrison, vice-president and general manager; A. R. Morrison, treasurer. These gentlemen, with Edward Bugbee and D. W. Chaffee, form the board of directors.

The beginnings of the firm of O. S. Chaffee & Son date back to 1828, when Joseph Conant became one of the first silk manufacturers of any note in America. In 1838 Mr. O. S. Chaffee, a son-in-law of Conant, gained a partnership in the business. In the course of years he received into partnership with himself his son, J. D. Chaffee, and the present firm name was adopted. The plant was originally located in Mansfield Centre, but since about the year 1872 the headquarters have been in this town. From the start the business has had a steady and substantial growth, and in its present status constitutes one of the leading local industries. The firm now has three mills. Nos. 1 and 2 are frame buildings. No. 3 mill is an ornate five story brick structure embodying the best modern ideas in its arrangement and equipment. The motive force is supplied by steam and water, and 250 operatives are employed. The product comprises silk and mohair braids, sewing silk, button hole twist, dress silks and silk linings. The goods have a standard reputation in the

market, and the annual sales amount to something like \$400,000. In the manufacture of dress silks this firm have achieved a signal success in direct and spirited competition with foreign producers who have heretofore almost monopolized the market. They have a large and growing patronage, and their goods are favorably received in all parts of the Union. Mr. J. D. Chaffee is a native of Tolland county, and has literally grown up in the business of which, since the death of his father, he has had sole charge. He has represented his district in both branches of the state legislature, and is an ex-member of the governor's staff.

The business of preparing what is known in the craft as "tram" and "organzine," a department in the manufacture of silk, is carried on by Arthur G. Turner. The silk "throwster," as the craftsman in this department is called, is an important factor in silk manufacture, and a large business is done in supplying weavers with the materials mentioned. Mr. Turner has been for the most of his life identified with the silk trade. For a number of years he was a partner in a silk mill at Mansfield Centre. In 1885 or 1886 he started the business here in a shop on Centre street. Here the premises soon proved inadequate to the requirements, and in the latter part of 1888 he began to build a new mill, which is now about completed. It is a substantial three story and basement brick building of what is known as the "Fall River" type of architecture, with a tower and engine house adjoining. There are in addition several frame buildings for auxiliary use. The mill is equipped with 8,000 spindles operated by an engine of 150 horse-power. Seventy-five hands are employed and the output is from 1,200 to 1,500 pounds per week.

The Natchaug Silk Company was incorporated in 1887. It grew out of the firm of O. S. Chaffee & Son, being established here to carry on the manufacture of silk dress goods, serges and satins. J. Dwight Chaffee is president of the company, and Charles Fenton secretary and treasurer. They occupy the three upper floors of the W. G. & A. R. Morrison Company's brick building on North street. Work began here in 1888. About fifty hands are employed.

The Willimantic Brass and Iron Foundry is situated on Mansfield avenue, in the western suburbs of the village. It was built in 1871, and occupied by William M. Gorry in the fall of 1873. Here a great variety of castings for machinery is made. A pat-

ent plow is also manufactured here. Mr. Gorry is a native of Lowell, Mass., where he was born December 14th, 1841, and he is a moulder by trade. He has at times employed as many as twenty-five hands.

Messrs. W. H. Latham & Co. established on Spring street in 1776 and '77 well arranged and commodious shops for the storing, handling and working of lumber. Steam power of ample capacity is employed for driving machinery, warming work rooms, heating the drying kiln and like uses, and the shop is supplied with modern wood working machinery. The firm do a general contracting and jobbing business, including painting and natural wood finishing. The court house, United Bank building, Hooker House and other prominent buildings in Willimantic are monuments to their reputation as practical builders. W. H. Latham was born in Eastford, Conn., September 21st, 1846. At the age of fifteen he went to Rhode Island and served as an apprentice to the joiner's trade. He came to Willimantic in 1867, and has since resided here. He married Mary E., daughter of Edwin E. Burnham, and has two children, Edwin B. and Burnett W.

The builders' facilities in Willimantic for doing good work at low rates are unsurpassed by any of the towns or cities hereabouts. The oldest and best known shop is probably that of D. E. Potter, who has done a general building, paint and oil business, but of late years has confined himself almost wholly to shop work.

George P. Spencer, proprietor of Spencer's handy mineral soap, has his shop and residence here, and ships quantities of his soap over a large territory.

Messrs. Jillson & Palmer, the inventors, patentees and proprietors of Jillson & Palmer's cotton opener, the best machine ever brought out for the purpose (so claimed), reside in Willimantic and manufacture their machines here.

The Edson & Calkins Quarry Company have a fine quarry and constantly employ a large force of men and teams. With the aid of all the latest appliances, such as steam drills, derricks and electrical batteries, they get out and ship great quantities of stone, which is finding a large and increasing sale, and by its hardness makes the best foundation and bridge piers which can be made.

The wholesale business of Willimantic is well taken care of.

The flour, grain and feed trade is represented by the house of Ansel Arnold & Co., Main street; E. A. Bugbee & Co., corner Valley and Jackson streets, and E. A. Buck & Co., Main street. The last named firm have a steam mill, located between the railroad track and Main street, where they can receive and ship grain and feed without the expense of teams. The wholesale grocery trade is represented by Durkee, Stiles & Co., who do a very heavy business. Willimantic is a trade center for many towns and villages within a radius of 15 or 20 miles. The coal and building material interest is in the hands of the firms of Lincoln & Boss, Geo. K. Nason and Hillhouse & Taylor, and that prices are lower here than in any place in eastern Connecticut is proven by the large shipments of lumber and other building materials into Norwich, New London, Putnam and other large places.

The saw mill of Messrs. Hillhouse & Taylor has been in operation for several years, sawing from one to two million feet per annum. Their wood working shop employs sixteen to twenty hands and uses water power to the extent of about sixty-five horse-power. Their shop is located on Main street, and here they manufacture all kinds of doors, sash, blinds, mouldings and like materials used in the builder's art.

Believing in the strength of union in a common cause the enterprising business men of Willimantic organized a Board of Trade in February, 1887. The meeting was held in Excelsior Hall, and at that time eighty-eight names had been signed to the roll of membership at an initial fee of three dollars each. The officers then elected were as follows: President, Ansel Arnold; vice-presidents, F. M. Wilson, H. N. Wales; secretary, W. N. Potter; treasurer, F. F. Webb; directors, A. T. Fowler, H. C. Murray, John Hickey, Marshall Tilden, H. E. Remington, W. C. Jillson, A. M. Hatheway; committee on trade and manufacturing, Geo. K. Nason, chairman, W. G. Morrison, O. H. K. Risle, G. W. Melony, H. C. Murray; committee on membership, G. H. Alford, J. G. Keigwin, Marshall Tilden, J. C. Lincoln, A. J. Bowen; committee on statistics, F. E. Beach, G. A. Conant, W. H. Latham, A. B. Adams, J. D. Jillson. A constitution and by-laws were adopted and the Board of Trade started off with a bright prospect of accomplishing some good, and the indications thus far harmonize with those prospective promises. The officers remain at the present time the same with very few exceptions.

The Willimantic Cemetery lies in the western suburbs of the borough. It is a pleasant location and contains many handsome monuments and well-kept plats. Its beginning dates back to the early part of the century. On the 15th of June, 1829, the First school society of Windham purchased of Henry and Joseph Brown two acres of land for a burying plot. This lot is now nearly in the center of the present cemetery. Four additions have since been made, two on the easterly and two on the westerly side. May 5th, 1858, the town of Windham bought about five and a quarter acres of Harden H. Fitch, on the east side, and May 18th of the same year the town bought of Niles Potter a little more than half an acre, also on the east side. August 6th, 1876, the town bought about twelve acres on the west side of the old cemetery, of Benjamin A. Potter, and again, December 30th, 1877, bought of the same party about two acres additional. Thus the cemetery now contains about twenty-two acres of ground. It is about one mile west of the heart of the borough, and still belongs to the town. It is neatly laid out and kept in good order, being ornamented with many evergreen hedges and trees, as well as other trees and shrubs. Along the highway front, on the north side, is a fine ornamental iron fence, placed there in 1882 by George Chase, a native of the borough but now of New York city, at an expense of \$10,000.

The poor farm of the town, which was purchased of Benjamin A. Potter, December 30th, 1876, lies on the north side of the highway directly opposite the cemetery.

The Roman Catholic cemetery lies about a mile northeast of the borough, on the west side of the old highway leading from Willimantic to North Windham. On the 29th of February, 1864, James G. Martin, of Windham, sold to Francis P. McFarland, bishop of Hartford, twenty-five acres of land at this point, to be used as a burying ground by the St. Joseph's Roman Catholic society. The ground remains in that use, having been consecrated according to the forms and usages of that church. The ground is nearly level, and is well laid out and ornamented by evergreens and other shrubbery, and has a number of very handsome monuments.

Eastern Star Lodge, No. 44, F. & A. M., was organized under a charter of the Grand Lodge of the state of Connecticut, November 21st, 1798. It was then located in the town of Lebanon, which at that time belonged to Windham county. An amusing

incident connected with the organization is preserved in tradition and we mention it here as it has been given to us from sources outside of the order. It is said that in the early years of the Lodge, on one occasion an inquisitive young lady of the family in whose house the Lodge held its meetings, determined to see what the men were doing up stairs, so she climbed into a tree which stood near the house and from her perch there she could look straight into the lodge room through a window which in the warm summer night was left open. She succeeded in witnessing considerable of the ceremonies, but unluckily for her in the midst of them she was discovered. Some of the men ran out and before she could descend and flee to a place of security she was captured and brought up to the lodge room where she was compelled to go through the form of initiation into the order and swear never to divulge any of the secret ceremonies which she had seen. As the story is not officially reported to us we cannot vouch for its correctness, but presume there is something of truth connected with it.

The twenty-four charter members of this Lodge were Jonathan M. Young, Saul Carpenter, Flavel Clark, Benjamin B. Fitch, Manham Willson, Jonathan Card, Oliver Wattles, Joseph Terry, Eleazer Huntington, John Burgess, Elijah Mason, John Newcomb, Nathaniel Beard, Seth Collins, Nathaniel Williams, Jr., Abijah Thomas, Jr., Azel Fitch, Ephraim Tisdale, John Hayward, Salmon Champion, Ambrose Collins, Thomas Dewey, Jared Bennett and Isaac Ticknor. The Grand Lodge of the state determined to have the installation of the lodge held in the meeting house and to have it public. The first officers of the new Lodge were: Daniel Tilden, W. M.; Joseph Metcalf, S. W.; Labdiel Hyde, J. W.; Elijah Mason, treasurer; Ephraim Tisdale, secretary; Joseph Terry, S. D.; John Newcomb, J. D.; Seth Collins, S. T.; John Hayward, J. T. Lodge meetings were, at first, held in the house of Elijah Mason. Occasional meetings of the Lodge were held in Windham for a few years. Action was then taken to procure a permanent place for the Lodge to meet in Windham. A room was secured in a building owned by Samuel Gray in the center of the village, for a term of years. After October, 1808, all the meetings of the Lodge were held at Windham. Daniel Tilden occupied the post of W. M. from the beginning until December, 1812, when he was succeeded by Gurdon Tracy, then a resident of Scotland.

From its quarters in Windham the Lodge removed to Willimantic, November 21st, 1851, then completing the fifty-third year of its existence. Here it held its meetings for a time in Odd Fellow's Hall and in other rooms, until permanent quarters were secured in Atwood's Block, which suite of rooms were well adapted to its uses. This they continued to occupy until April 16th, 1885, when they took possession of their new lodge rooms in the United Bank Building, where excellent accommodations had been provided for the several Masonic bodies of the town. Very interesting public ceremonies of dedication were held at the date last mentioned, conducted by M. W. Dwight Waugh, G. M., and the other officers of the Grand Lodge. A historical address was delivered by Hon. John M. Hall, a member of this Lodge, and the exercises terminated with a banquet in Franklin Hall.

The following men have been W. M. of this Lodge from its organization to the present time: Daniel Tilden, Gurdon Tracy, Luther D. Leach, Thomas Clark, William Webb, Gurdon Hebard, Wallace Huntington, William Wales, Calvin H. Davison, Jeremiah King, Joshua B. Lord, J. S. Loveland, Roderick Davison, Van W. Austin, Jephtha Harris, John G. Keigwin, Charles S. Billings, Chester Tilden, Charles N. Daniels, Richard L. Wiggins, DeWitt C. Hill, Charles James Fox, T. F. Howie. The Lodge is in a very prosperous condition, and at the present time has a membership of about two hundred, with flattering prospects of continued prosperity.

Trinity Chapter, No. 9, Royal Arch Masons, was instituted by the Grand Chapter of the state, upon the petition of Daniel Tilden and others, at Windham, on the 21st of May, A. L. 5808, when the following officers were installed: Daniel Tilden, H. P.; Roger Huntington, K.; John Clarke, S. The Chapter continued to hold its meetings in Windham until April 29th, A. L. 5852, when it removed to Willimantic and has since occupied the rooms of Eastern Star Lodge. The following persons have held the office of H. P. in the Chapter: Daniel Tilden, Andrew Harris, Gurdon Tracy, Thomas Clark, Vine Hovey, Gurdon Hebard, Wallace Huntington, Joshua B. Lord, Chester Tilden, Henry A. Balcom, David C. Card, Charles H. Bigelow, Charles S. Billings, O. D. Brown, Henry A. Larkin, E. T. Hamlin, James Harris, Jr., H. R. Chappell, F. S. Fowler, H. M. Graupner. The Chapter now numbers one hundred and nine members.

Olive Branch Council, No. 10, was chartered by the Grand Council of Connecticut on the 12th day of May, 1868. The following were charter members: Henry E. Balcam, Chester Tilden, Jr., David C. Card, John R. Cogswell, Abel E. Brooks, Samuel B. Stanton, Van W. Austin, Joel W. Backus. On the above mentioned date the Council was instituted in the lodge room in Willimantic by Stephen T. Bartlett, G. P., and Joseph R. Wheeler, G. R., officers of the Grand Council. The first officers of the Council were: Henry E. Balcam, T. J. M.; Chester Tilden, Jr., R. J. D. M.; David C. Card, P. C. of W. The following are past officers of this Council: H. E. Balcam, Chester Tilden, Jr., Thomas H. Rollinson, Charles S. Billings, Charles James Fox, E. T. Hamlin, Charles D. Peck. The Council now numbers about seventy members.

St. John's Commandery, No. 11, Knights Templar, was instituted January 23d, 1882, upon the petition of charter members Sir Chester Tilden, Sir David C. Card and Sir W. H. Bolander. The instituting ceremonies were conducted by officers of the Grand Commandery, Sirs William H. Cobb, E. C.; Henry H. Green, G.; and S. G. Waters, C. G. The following Sir Knights were the first officers of the new commandery: Chester Tilden, E. C.; David C. Card, G.; W. H. Bolander, C. G. Past eminent commanders up to this date are: Chester Tilden, David C. Card, Charles S. Billings and Charles J. Fox. The present officers are: Sir John H. Bullard, E. C.; Sir George K. Nason, G.; Sir Frank S. Fowler, C. G. The Commandery now numbers forty members, and is in a prosperous condition. Trinity Chapter, Olive Branch Council and St. John's Commandery were all of them outgrowths from Eastern Star Lodge.

Radiant Chapter, No. 11, O. E. S., was organized February 27th, 1874. Its charter members were: Mrs. Hattie M. Harris, Mrs. Susan M. Fuller, Mrs. Clarissa A. Babcock, Miss Nancy Chapin, Mrs. Caroline Hanna, Miss Eunice S. Ripley, Mrs. Sarah E. Rogers, Miss Hattie L. Fuller, Mrs. Eliza A. Congden, Mrs. Arrunette Barber. Meetings of the Chapter have been held in Masonic Hall from the beginning. Its first officers were: H. M. Harris, W. M.; Caroline R. Dorman, A. M.; Susan M. Fuller, Sec.; Nancy Chapin, Treas.; C. A. Babcock, Con.; Louisa J. Hoxie, A. C.; W. L. Fuller, A.; S. E. Rogers, R.; Emma A. Bullard, E.; E. S. Ripley, M.; Julia King, E.; Bro. A. S. Barber, W. P.; Bro. A. S. Fuller, W.; Bro. William Thompson, Sent. Successive W. M.'s

have since been: H. M. Harris, 1875; Mrs. Carrie S. Robbins, 1876; Mrs. Clarissa A. Babcock, 1877-79; Caroline E. Billings, 1880-82; Miss Helen E. Batey, 1883-84; E. H. Hamlin, 1885; Ellen S. Clark, 1886; Susan M. Fuller, 1887-88. The Chapter owns no property. Its membership comprises 61 brothers and 62 sisters.

Willimantic Council, No. 720, Royal Arcanum, was organized December 7th, 1882. It had twenty-two charter members; W. D. Brigham, C. S. Billings, A. A. Burnham, H. E. Remington, De W. C. Hill, F. M. Thompson, E. A. Taft, C. J. Fox, M. D., H. F. Royce, Charles H. Andrews, C. R. Utley, H. R. Lincoln, N. D. Webster, W. H. Wales, J. H. Bullard, C. N. Daniels, H. M. Cady, F. S. Fowler, Frank Larrabee, O. S. Chaffee, Jr., Charles H. Robbins, W. H. H. Bingham. The Council meets in old Masonic Hall. The first officers were: Charles S. Billings, regent; W. D. Brigham, vice-regent; H. F. Royce, treasurer. The presiding officers have been as follows: Charles S. Billings, 1882-83; Walter D. Brigham, 1884-85; Charles S. Billings, 1886; Charles N. Daniels, 1887-88; Dwight H. Barstow, 1889. The total membership now is fifty-six. Two deaths have occurred within its circle. They were, Jonathan Hodgdon, druggist, August 31st, 1883, and Edward A. Taft, February 14th, 1887.

Willimantic Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was organized in 1875. During the first few years it had a feeble existence, hardly maintaining its life, but later on a degree of prosperity seemed to perch upon its banners. The weak society could not well afford to hire a hall, so its meetings were held in private houses or spare rooms which were offered for their use, as circumstances favored them. The records previous to 1881 are lost, but since that time the presidents successively have been: B. J. Carey, 1881-83; Patrick McGlore, 1884; Thomas Foran, 1885; Hugh J. Carney, 1886-87; John F. Hennessey, 1888. The vice-presidents have been: John Foy, 1881; Luke Flynn, 1882; Patrick McGlore, 1883; John J. Carey, 1884; P. J. Carey, 1885; John F. Hennessey, 1886-87; Luke Owens, 1888. Recording secretaries have been: Daniel Courtney, 1881; Edward Carey, 1882; John P. Shea, 1883-86; Michael Moriarty, 1887; D. J. Regan, 1888. Financial secretaries have been: Patrick Conway, 1881; John P. Shea, 1882; Cornelius Shea, 1883; John F. Shea, 1884; Thomas Haron, 1885-87; Jeremiah Mahoney, 1888. Treasurers have been: Florence Tonnely, 1881-83;

John Casey, 1884; Dennis Shea, 1885-87; John J. Carey, 1888. In 1881 the treasury contained \$119.33; in 1888 it contained over \$1,000. The membership at different times was as follows: 1881, 32; 1882, 38; 1883, 34; 1884, 45; 1885, 55; 1886, 60; 1887, 67; 1888, 78.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union, of Willimantic, was organized March 7th, 1877. The first members were Madams Sarah J. Lillie, Carrie L. Lamb, Julia Pinney, E. S. Andrew, E. E. Park, N. Davison, J. M. Pierce, Lucius Carpenter, Adaline S. Davis, E. F. Trowbridge, E. M. Hanks, H. G. Douglass, E. A. Barrows, Mason Lincoln, George A. Burnham, C. E. Conant, A. A. Hall, Eliza Dexter, C. Topliff, William Thompson, William Hudson and E. Picknell, and Miss Inez M. Brown. They met a part of the time in private parlors, and a part of the time in the "Faith Rooms." The first officers were: Mrs. C. E. Conant, president; Mrs. Amos Hall, Mrs. Lucius Carpenter, vice-presidents; Miss Inez M. Brown, secretary and treasurer. Mrs. C. E. Conant has served as president down to the present time, with the exception of two years. Miss Maria Case was president one year from October, 1883, and Mrs. C. B. Pomeroy one year from October, 1887. The Union meets now in the parlors of the Baptist church. It owns no property, but has about fifty members. Its present officers are: Mrs. C. E. Conant, president; Mrs. C. B. Pomeroy, Mrs. George Phillips, Mrs. Edwin Bugbee, vice-presidents; Miss I. E. Sutherland, corresponding secretary and treasurer; Miss Nellie Preston, recording secretary. This was the only Union in the county until the formation of Putnam Union three or four years ago.

The St. Jean Baptist Society of Willimantic, was organized May 30th, 1880. Its first officers were: Joseph Martin, president; David Lambert, vice-president; Reverend Florimond De Bruycker, chaplain; P. P. Paré, recording secretary; Godfroid Lapalme, financial secretary; J. N. Archambault, treasurer; Ed. Paguin, first director; H. Belaire, second director. The names of other members who first organized the society were: E. Quintal, H. Blanchette, G. Gilbert, S. Ayotte, P. Sansouci, Ed. Bacon, Ed. Bonin, L. Belanger, H. Routier, N. Routier, Ant. Lucier, Nap. Bacon, Isaie Racicot, P. Mullen, M. Alix, Naz. Gingras, Jos. Gingras. Its first meeting place was in the old St. Joseph's R. C. church. Its present place of meeting is in Atwood's Block, in the old Masonic Hall. Its property consists of its furniture,

banners, etc., valued at about \$400, and cash deposited in savings banks to the amount of about \$1,000. Its present membership is about eighty. The presiding officers regularly elected in March and September, have been as follows, each serving for the six months term beginning with the date given: Joseph Martin, June, 1880, one and one-half terms; J. N. Archambault, March, '81; Godfroid Lapalme, September, '81; Jos. Martin, March, '82; Th. Potvin, September, '82; G. Lapalme, March, '83, two terms; A. P. Favreau, March, '84, four terms; Elzear St. Onge, March, '86; A. P. Favreau, September, '86; Th. Potvin, March, '87; A. D. David, September, '87, two terms; J. N. Archambault, September, '88. The other officers at present are: Joseph Dumas, vice-president; Tancrede de Villers, recording secretary; Chs. de Villers, financial secretary; The. Potvin, treasurer; Frs. Baril, corresponding secretary; Z. Caisse, warden.

San Jose Council, No. 14, K. of C., was instituted March 12th, 1885, receiving its charter at that time. Its charter members were: Officers—James E. Murray, G. K.; Captain P. Fitzpatrick, D. G. K.; D. P. Dunn, R. S.; William Vanderman, F. S.; J. H. Morrison, treasurer; E. Grimes, warden; R. Carney, I. G.; James Maxwell, O. G.; T. H. McNally, C. P.; other charter members—John McDonough, D. McCarthy, Joseph Cotter, James Toomey, James Dolan, James Courtney, John H. Dawson, Theodore Potvin. The Council meets in Old Masonic Hall, in Atwood's Block. This Council is increasing rapidly in membership and becoming popular as a Catholic society. Its insurance system is its chief object. It has paid out several hundred dollars as its proportionate part for death assessments to needy widows and orphans, and has \$1,500 in its treasury. The presiding officers since the first have been: E. F. Casey, G. K., A. P. Favreau, D. G. K., from 1886 to 1887; J. P. Cotter, G. K., T. F. Reynolds, D. G. K., from 1887 to 1889. It has about ninety members in good standing.

Willimantic Lodge, No. 11, Ancient Order of United Workmen, a beneficiary society, was organized in July, about six or seven years ago. It meets every two weeks, in room No. 3 in Loomer Opera House. It has a membership of about fifty in good standing. A benefit of \$2,000 at death is paid to the surviving friends of its members. It is a secret society in its working. Lodges are associated throughout the country, but any state having 2,000 members can control its own assessments. Assess-

ments are levied on all members as often as the grand treasury fund falls below two thousand dollars. An assessment now brings into the grand treasury about \$8,000. The number of deaths thus far in this Grand Lodge has been fifty-nine.

Natchaug Lodge, No. 22, Knights of Pythias, was chartered March 7th, 1872. It meets every Monday night in Atwood Block. Its charter members were: Thomas W. Henry, George Bartlett, L. F. Bugbee, Abel Clark, Cortland Babcock, Jr., Dwight Jordan, Hiram A. Snow, M. L. Tryon, J. T. McNeil, Samuel J. Miller, W. N. Potter. The whole number initiated up to this time is about one hundred and fifty. The present membership is about forty to fifty. The present officers are: W. H. Wales, C. C.; E. B. Walden, vice-C.; H. E. Reade, K. of A.; W. B. Hoxie, prelate; Charles E. Clark, M. of F.; W. N. Potter, M. of E.; E. D. C. Card, M. of A.

Francis S. Long Post, No. 30, G. A. R., was organized March 30th, 1881. The following were charter members: Samuel J. Miller, Daniel K. Sweet, J. D. Willis, Chauncey C. Geer, Henry A. Howard, William Brown, Benajah E. Smith, Irad W. Storrs, Elisha C. Boden, H. F. Lewis, William H. Sweet. The following list embraces its entire membership: John Bolles, Amos C. Crandall, Darius Moon, George A. Murdock, George F. Lyman, Walter Plumley, William Warrilow, Horace Warner, William F. Gates, William E. Bailey, Philetus G. Perry, Albert S. Blish, Lemuel Warner, James W. Beckwith, George L. Cooley, Henry L. Bingham, Asa M. Holmes, Daniel C. Lewis, Palmer S. Green, Arthur P. Benner, William E. Williams, Edwin M. Thorne, Enoch Dodd, Luke Flynn, E. F. Payson, William Smith, Louis Putoz, George W. Herrick, Augustus Tittell, Eugene Winton, Danforth O. Lombard, John Hickey, Charles P. Brann, Robert Binns, Melvin L. Nichols, John Tew, W. H. H. Bingham, William N. Tremper, Amos W. Bill, Daniel S. Clark, A. E. Brooks, Frederick Miller, Horace Griggs, William H. Bosworth, Frank G. Colby, Jerome B. Baldwin, Warren H. Bissell, Elisha D. Hill, George Dimock, John J. Brierly, John A. Holmes, Michael O'Louglin, Henry K. Brown, Michael Shea, Henry K. Hyde, William A. Hempstead, Alvord Chappell, William C. Walker, Ames E. Bailey, John J. Franklin, Charles H. Corey, Thomas Handley, J. S. Bradbury, Thomas Spencer, Lucien B. Woodworth, William H. Sypher, Alexander Bruto, John D. Hart, James Haggerty, John Sweeney, Frederick J. Traver, C. M. Kearnes, Charles

Ashworth, Danford Wyllys, George L. Briggs, Sanford A. Comins, Van B. Jordan, Andrew E. Kinne, Andrew W. Loomis, Cortland Babcock, C. H. Colgrove, David Clapp, William M. Snow, Charles H. Jackson, H. J. Fieldgen, Charles Fenton. The past post commanders are: Samuel J. Miller, 1881; Benajah E. Smith, 1882; J. D. Willis, 1883; Amos G. Crandall, 1884-1885; Warren H. Bissell, 1886; Elisha C. Boden, 1887; Samuel J. Miller, 1888. There are at present seventy members in good standing. The present officers are: John J. Brierly, C.; Charles Ashworth, S. V. C.; George A. Murdock, J. V. C.; Thomas Handley, adjutant; J. D. Willis, Q. M.; Warren H. Bissell, chap.; C. A. Colgrove, M. D., surgeon; James Haggerty, officer of the day; E. F. Payson, officer of the guard; A. P. Benner, ser. maj.; Luke Flynn, Q. M. S. The Post meets in room No. 3, Loomer Opera House, every Friday evening. It decorates 178 graves in four cemeteries on the annual day set apart for that purpose.

Jonathan Trumbull Council, No. 29, Order of United American Mechanics, a society composed of a distinctively American membership, was organized December 4th, 1888. It meets in Atwood Block. All members must be native born Americans. The objects are to sustain the free institutions of America and the government as it is, and to provide benefits in sickness and death for its members. The officers change every six months. The first officers were as follows: Charles N. Daniels, councillor; S. J. Miller, vice-councillor; Eugene Randall, junior ex-councillor; H. F. Barrows, senior ex-councillor; George H. C. Osborn, recording secretary; C. H. Edmonds, assistant recording secretary; H. R. Chappell, treasurer; Arthur L. Hayden, financial secretary; Frank A. Westphal, inductor; C. H. Webster, examiner; Frederick Young, inside protector; L. L. Keigwin, outside protector; James Macfarlane, Jonathan Osborn and H. F. Barrows, trustees. The membership at present numbers about fifty.

Company E, of the Third regiment, C. N. G., numbers at present fifty-eight members. They have an armory in Centre street, where they drill every Thursday evening from November 1st to June 1st, according to law. The company was organized about 1872. The officers are: Patrick Fitzpatrick, captain; Thomas Ashton, 1st lieutenant; John H. Morrison, 2d lieutenant; John W. Moran, company clerk.

A lodge called Fidelity Temple, of the order Temple of Honor, was instituted here about 1870, which was composed of many of

the business men of the place, and others. It had a membership of over one hundred, but after several years the interest in it died out and the charter was surrendered after an existence of about ten years. The subject, however, was afterward revived, and the Willimantic Temple of Honor, No. 32, was instituted in January, 1882. The office of worthy chief has been held successively by the following, the regular term being six months: Edward L. Furry, January to May, 1882; John A. Gardner, J. B. Hood, Joel W. Cargel, George B. Abbott, George C. Topliffe, Charles F. Merrill, George Smith, Maurice Tittle, A. J. Lawton, E. F. Payson, William C. Cargel, E. L. Furry, George B. Story, C. L. Fillmore and Charles Ingraham, at present in office (June, 1889). The lodge has averaged about forty members, and has done much good in reclaiming many drunkards. A Social Temple and a lodge of the Golden Cross, societies admitting ladies to membership, work in harmony and increase the social features of the Temple.

The Windham Bank was incorporated August 8th, 1842, being located in the central village of Windham. The following persons were then made directors: John Baldwin, George Spafford, Justin Swift, Stephen Hosmer, Thomas Gray, William C. Dorrance, John Webb, Chauncey F. Cleveland, John A. Rockwell and Abner Hendee. The officers were: John Baldwin, president; Joel W. White, cashier. The salary of the cashier was fixed at \$350 a year, to begin when he should give his bonds for \$50,000. September 17th Mr. White resigned, and Samuel Bingham was unanimously appointed in his place as cashier, which position he held until March 17th, 1886. April 3d, 1850, Henry S. Walcott was elected president, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of John Baldwin. The bank was organized as a national bank June 21st, 1865. January 9th, 1872, Thomas Ramsdell was elected president, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Walcott. In March, 1879, the bank was removed from Windham to the borough of Willimantic. Mr. Ramsdell resigned the presidency, and Guilford Smith was elected in his place January 12th, 1886. March 17th, 1886, the resignation of Samuel Bingham was accepted, and H. Clinton Lathrop was elected cashier in his stead. The capital stock of the bank is at present \$100,000; surplus, \$7,500; profits, \$11,753; deposits, \$182,882. The present officers are: Guilford Smith, president; Mason Lincoln, vice-president: H. Clinton Lathrop, cashier. The directors are

Guilford Smith, Mason Lincoln, Henry Larrabee, Charles Smith, Thomas Ramsdell, George Lathrop, Frank F. Webb, Albert R. Morrison and Charles A. Capen. A robbery occurred to the bank in the year 1854, the particulars of which are given from the personal recollection of one of its officers as follows:

“Friday, November 17th, 1854.—Windham Bank was entered by three men, with false keys, about eight o'clock last evening, and when the clerk, James Parsons, who slept in the bank, entered about nine o'clock, he was taken by two of the men, in the dark, after he had locked the door; a handkerchief was put over his eyes and he laid on the bed and watched by one man while the others broke open the vault and took about \$7,000 in specie and about \$2,000 of other bank bills and \$13,000 of Windham bank bills. After gagging Mr. Parsons and confining his hands and feet, they locked the door and went to Bingham's Crossing on the N. L. N. Railway and waited while one went to Willimantic and took a hand-car from the Hartford & Providence Road and took them to Norwich, where they arrived about 5:30 in the morning. They were frightened when they heard that the news had got there before them, and crossed the river, entering the woods between Laurel Hill and Allyn's Point, where they were watched until the steamboat train arrived for New York. They then boarded the steamboat. There the sheriff and his assistants were waiting with Mr. Tingley, who pointed them out to the officers, and they were arrested. About \$21,000 of the money was found while the boat was going from Allyn's Point to New York, Saturday night. At their trial in Windham they gave the names of Jones, Crandall, Scott & Wilson.

“About November 1st, 1854, a large man came to Willimantic and stopped at the hotel then kept by William Tingley on the south side of the river (The Hebard House). It was afterward thought that his business was to make arrangements for the men to rob Windham Bank. He stayed but a short time, then disappeared. On or about November 2d, three men stopped at the same place. They went out in the evening but came back about ten o'clock and took an early morning train to New York, via Hartford. While they were at breakfast Mr. Tingley felt of their carpet bag and was satisfied that there was a bit-stock and other burglars' tools in it. He came to the conclusion that they were there for the purpose of robbing

some place in Willimantic. One of the arrested men in reply to some questions, stated that they came there at the time named above and walked to the Windham Bank to rob it that night. They broke their key and went back to New York, made another key and were gone two weeks, before they came to complete the business. When the lock was taken from the outside door of the bank, the piece of a key was found in it, which helped to confirm his story."

The Willimantic Savings Institute was incorporated by act of legislature in 1842, approved by the then Governor Chauncey F. Cleveland of this county. The incorporators were Oliver Kingsley, Jr., John Tracy, Lloyd E. Baldwin, James D. Hosmer, Joshua B. Lord, Royal Jennings, Samuel Lee, Horace Hall, William L. Jillson, Laban Chase, Newton Fitch, Lewis Gager, Lucien H. Clark, Amos Palmer and Waterman C. Clark. The first meeting of incorporators was held June 18th, 1842. The first officers then chosen were: Oliver Kingsley, Jr., president; Royal Jennings, vice-president; John Tracy, secretary and treasurer; William L. Jillson, Lloyd E. Baldwin, Joshua B. Lord, Horace Hall, Laban Chase, directors. Oliver Kingsley, Jr., held the office of president until his death, in 1846. He was succeeded by Horace Hall, who acceptably filled that position until 1870, when John Tracy was chosen president. Mr. Tracy had acted as treasurer since the incorporation, a period of 28 years, and a resolution acknowledging his fidelity and ability in that position was unanimously given him by the board. At this time Henry F. Royce was chosen secretary and treasurer. In 1869 a fine brick and stone building was erected on the corner of Main and Bank streets, which affords excellent facilities for the transaction of banking business in the corner room on the first floor. The balance of the building, on the ground floor and the second and third floors, used as stores and offices. On the death of Mr. Tracy, in May, 1874, Whiting Hayden, who had for a long time been vice-president, was elected president. He continued in that capacity until his death, which occurred June 20th, 1886, when he was succeeded by Edwin A. Buck, the then vice-president, who still remains at the head of the institute. Henry F. Royce, having held the position of secretary and treasurer since 1870, was suspended March 23d, 1888, and Frank F. Webb was appointed, at first temporarily, and in June following elected by the trustees at their annual meeting, to the office of secretary

and treasurer, which place he still holds. This institution, from a small beginning increased with the growth of the place until the deposits amounted to nearly \$1,000,000, and has divided a large amount of profits with its depositors.

The Dime Savings Bank of Willimantic was organized in May, 1872, and was incorporated under the state law in the same year. Its original incorporators were Silas F. Loomer, James Walden, Horace Hall, James G. Martin, Henry G. Taintor, Ansel Arnold, George W. Burnham, Madison Woodward, Porter B. Peck, John M. Hall, Hyde Kingsley, James M. Johnson, William C. Jillson, Fred. Rogers, S. O. Vinlen, George Lincoln, George W. Hanna, E. P. Packer, J. Dwight Chaffee and George W. McFarland. The bank commenced business September 21st, 1872. Its first officers were: Silas F. Loomer, president; O. H. K. Risley, secretary and treasurer. The amount on deposit October 1st, 1888, was about \$600,000. Its present officers are: James Walden, president; John L. Walden, secretary and treasurer.

James Walden was born in Exeter, Conn., October 26th, 1825, and came to Willimantic with his parents in 1828. He was the youngest son of Silas and Jane (Rose) Walden, and commenced at the age of thirteen to work in the Windham Company's mill, being engaged in the dressing department. About 1850 he engaged in the book and stationery business in Willimantic, which he carried on successfully till 1887, but during this time was also agent for Adams Express Company. He was also postmaster and had charge of the telegraph office here. He was elected president of the Dime Savings Bank, July 21st, 1880, and since that date has devoted much of his time to that institution. He married Amanda M., daughter of James Hempstead, and has three children—James H., a resident of New York city; Jessie L., wife of H. C. H. Palmer, of Sing Sing, N. Y.; John L., born in Willimantic, April 10th, 1861, and married Bell N., daughter of Henry Herrick, and who is the present secretary and treasurer of the Dime Savings Bank of Willimantic.

The Merchants' Loan & Trust Company, organized for the double purpose of doing the business of a trust company and a general banking business, opened for business February 1st, 1871. A. C. Crosby was president, and J. F. Preston, treasurer; William C. Jillson, vice-president, and O. H. K. Risley, assistant treasurer. In March, 1873, the two latter became respectively president and treasurer. The company continued doing active

banking business until July, 1878, when that department was turned over to the First National Bank, and the company continued to do simply a trust business until the present time. The officers last mentioned remain to the present time. The company has a capital of \$50,000, and its office is with the First National Bank.

The First National Bank was organized in June, 1878, with a capital of \$100,000. Its officers were: William C. Jillson, president; Ansel Arnold, vice-president; Oliver H. K. Risley, cashier. They remain in their respective positions at the present time. The first board of directors were as follows, all except those marked * remaining in the board at present. Those marked have withdrawn, and their places have not been supplied, so the board now numbers but six: William C. Jillson, Ansel Arnold, O. H. K. Risley, James M. Johnson,* Hyde Kingsley,* Amos T. Fowler, Silas F. Loomer,* E. Stevens Henry, Stephen G. Risley.

The United Bank Building, one of the finest business blocks in the town, standing on the north side of Main street, in the heart of the borough, was erected in 1884, by the First National and Dime Savings Banks. The imposing front is made attractive by artistic designs in terra cotta work, and still further set off by plate-glass windows at the first story, surmounted by circular transoms in cathedral style. The interior arrangement is in accord with the best modern ideas of convenience and comfort; the plumbing, heating and lighting represent the latest improved methods, and the polished cherry woodwork and hard-finished walls give a pleasing effect. The first floor is occupied by the banks, one on either side of the spacious central entrance, which gives access to the offices above.

One of the largest business blocks in the borough is the Turner block. It was erected in 1877, and is a substantial five-story brick structure with a three-story extension. The main building, with the exception of the store floor, is occupied as the Hotel Commercial, a well-kept house under the popular management of Mrs. P. A. Babcock. The block is named in honor of Mr. A. S. Turner, a leading druggist, who occupies an elegant store in the extension.

Loomer Opera House is one of the most substantial buildings in the borough. It is built of brick, the walls being not less than sixteen inches thick in any part. The fronts on Main and

North streets are of pressed brick. The size of the building is 72 by 125 feet, four stories high. The ground floor is occupied by stores, while the upper floors along the Main street front are occupied by offices of various kind. Back of these on the second floor is the opera house, one of the finest entertainment halls in the state. The architectural plans were furnished by the designer of the first class theatres of New York city. It is furnished with all the modern appointments, elegant and complete scenery and properties, a stage 35 by 60 feet, twelve dressing rooms, four proscenium boxes, two balconies, best opera chairs in parquet and first balcony, heated by steam and thoroughly ventilated, and capable of seating 1,100 persons. The audience room and its appointments were finished at an expense of some twenty thousand dollars. The building was commenced in April, 1879, and was completed so far that the corner store was occupied by Mr. Murray March 15th, 1880. The opera house was completed on the 12th of the following November. The proprietor of the building is Mr. Silas F. Loomer, who came to Willimantic and started in the lumber and coal business in 1862. At that time there was no lumber or coal business carried on here, and the wiseacres advised Mr. Loomer not to risk his money and enterprise in so hazardous and unpromising a field. But the remarkable success of that business as well as the rapid development of the village since that time proves those cautions to have been not well timed.

The first newspaper published in this village was the *Public Medium*, started by John Evans, about January, 1847. After a few years its name was changed to the *Willimantic Journal*, under which name it is still published. From Evans it passed into the hands of a Mr. Simpson, then to William L. Weaver, whose literary career was a very important and conspicuous one to the people of this town and county. His footprints on the intellectual sands of this locality were deeply impressed and the influence thereof will go out to many generations. From him the *Journal* passed to the hands of a Mr. Curtis, later of the *Norwich Bulletin*, and again it changed to the hands of Walt Pierson. A little later we find it in the hands of W. J. Barber, from whom again it passed to Henry L. Hall. Later the firm became Hall & French, then Hall & Bill, and still later the Hall & Bill Publishing Company, by whom the paper is now issued. It occupies commodious quarters at the foot of Railroad street, near

the depot, where it has been located for several years. Its form was changed from folio to quarto about 1872. It is now a six column quarto, republican in politics, published on Fridays. The business of job printing is also carried on quite extensively in connection with the publication of the paper. Eight presses are employed, and the force numbers fifteen hands. Extensive job work for manufacturers is done, besides general printing. The paper has a circulation of 3,000, and goes to every state and territory in the Union, as well as to Canada.

The first issue of the *Willimantic Enterprise* was sent out January 4th, 1877, from an office in the Franklin Building. It was started by the Enterprise Publishing Company, of whom N. W. Leavitt was the principal spirit. It passed to Fayette & Safford in the early part of 1879. In November of that year John A. McDonald bought an interest, added capital, and increased the facilities of the office. The paper was changed from a 4-page to an 8-page paper, and its name changed to the *Willimantic Chronicle*, the firm name at the same time being changed to McDonald & Safford. In May, 1887, the proprietorship adopted the name Chronicle Printing Company, the former owners still holding the principal interest. From Franklin Hall the office was removed to H. C. Hall's building on Main street, then to the present building, which had been erected for it, at No. 10 Church street, into which it moved in October, 1887. At first politically neutral, it was made a democratic paper since its name was changed, and is now claimed to be the only living paper which sustained the democratic banner during the period from 1872 to 1889.

The Connecticut Home was started in September, 1886, by Allen B. Lincoln, editor and proprietor; A. E. Knox is its present business manager. It is a seven-column folio, and has a circulation rising three thousand. It is the temperance paper, and an exponent of the prohibition movement. It is also a family newspaper of general departments. It was started on Church street, the paper at first being printed by another concern. It now has a well fitted and furnished office on Main street, over Buck's store.

Other newspaper ventures have been made here that have closed up their accounts in time and manner more or less summary. The *Willimantic Record* was started by W. C. Crandall in 1881. After a very brief existence it was suspended March 24th



Lloyd E. Baldwin

of the same year. The *Willimantic Daily News* was started in E. A. Buck's building on Main street in 1887. Its editorial and business management was in the hands of J. Harry Foster, though John L. Hunter was a frequent editorial writer. Its publication was suspended April 1st, 1887, after an existence of about four months.

In connection with the subject of printing, it may be of interest to notice the enterprise of wood type manufacture which was once carried on in this village. Among the employees in the shop of Edwin Allen at South Windham, were Horatio N. and Jeremiah C. Bill. After that shop failed these two brothers started the business at Lebanon in 1850. In the following year they removed to Willimantic and located in a room in the old cotton mill now owned by the Linen Company as mill No. 3. Here they carried on the manufacture of wood type for three years, having a trade mostly with New York. They gained a wide and favorable reputation in their art, in which they were not excelled by any other wood-type manufacturers in the world. Indeed they were the only firm exhibiting wood type at the World's Fair in New York, and their specimens were burned when the ill fated Crystal Palace was destroyed. About the year 1853 they had associated with them a man by the name of Stark, the firm name being Bill, Stark & Co. Afterward the firm name was simply H. & J. Bill. The business not proving profitable, disaster followed, and the material was sold to William H. Page in 1854, and he moved it to Greenville, Conn.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

L. E. BALDWIN.—John Baldwin, one of the first thirty-five settlers of Norwich in 1659, was the ancestor of that branch of the family to which the subject of this notice belongs. John Baldwin, 2d, grandson of John, settled in New Concord, then a part of Norwich, but incorporated into the town of Bozrah in 1775, his son Eliphalet succeeding him in the occupancy of the homestead where the father of the subject of this notice was born in 1787. Upon attaining his majority, having qualified himself for his business, Eliphalet, Jr., removed to Norwich, and was extensively engaged in the manufacture of carriages up to the time of his death, November, 1819.

The subject of this sketch was born in Norwich April 13th, 1810, attended the common schools from four to ten years of age,

from ten to sixteen attending the common county district schools from three to four months each year. His father's death occurring when the lad was nine years old, and his mother's four years later, threw him upon his own resources. At the age of sixteen years he commenced to learn the trade of carpenter and joiner in all its branches. After serving an apprenticeship of five years, in May, 1831, he commenced business in Willimantic as a contractor and builder, for more than forty years being more or less extensively engaged in building contracts, embracing large factories, churches and dwellings, in various parts of Connecticut and Massachusetts. He married, December, 1833, Miss Lora Ann Sessions, of Mansfield, whose death occurred October, 1864. Of their children, five in number, three are living, engaged in active business. In 1866 he married his second wife, Miss Ellen E. Parmele, of Guilford, who is still living.

In politics the subject of this sketch is an out and out democrat, and enjoys the confidence of his party, having three times been their candidate for state comptroller, also for senator and presidential elector. He has been a representative to the state legislature, postmaster at Willimantic, warden of its borough, a delegate to the national convention, and held various local offices from time to time. He was instrumental in establishing the Willimantic Savings Institute, holding various positions in the same. His connection with the Masonic and Odd Fellows' organizations extends over a period of forty-five years, having held the position of grand master of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows of the state of Connecticut and grand representative to the Grand Lodge of the United States, being at this time the oldest grand master in this state. For the last sixty years he has been connected with the various military organizations of this state, holding many responsible positions therein, including the offices of captain, lieutenant-colonel and colonel, and general of the Fifth Brigade, holding the last position 1844-47. He is now an active member of the Veteran Corps of the famous Putnam Phalanx. He has always taken an active interest in the local churches and public schools, and done much to promote their progress. In brief, General Baldwin has been one of the most active and influential factors in the growth and development of Willimantic, is a prominent citizen of the state, and is known as the staunch friend of all that is good and true in soci-





J. Schaffer

ety. Just now rounding out his four score years, and still hale and hearty, he is enjoying the just fruits of an honest and honorable life, universally esteemed.

J. DWIGHT CHAFFEE.—The Chaffee family have for several generations resided in the town of Mansfield, Tolland county, Conn. Frederick Chaffee, the grandfather of J. Dwight Chaffee, a prosperous farmer in that town, married Elizabeth Knowlton. Their son, Orwell S., was born in Ashford, Windham county, Conn., and for some years resided in Northampton, Mass., where he was engaged in the manufacture of silk thread. Later he was similarly interested in Mansfield, and was a man of prominence in that locality, serving his constituents in the state legislature and filling other important offices. He married Lucinda A., daughter of Joseph Conant of Mansfield, one of the earliest silk manufacturers in that town. Their children are a daughter, Maria A., deceased, and two sons, J. Dwight and Olon S.

The eldest of these, J. Dwight Chaffee, was born August 9th, 1847, in Mansfield. He pursued a common English course at the public schools, and at the age of sixteen entered his father's mill in Mansfield. He thoroughly learned the process of silk manufacturing, passing in succession through all the departments and becoming master of the business, the management of which gradually passed into his hands. In the year 1872, under the firm name of O. S. Chaffee & Son, the business was removed to Willimantic, where, under superior advantages of location, it greatly increased in proportions, and has enjoyed a career of much prosperity. Two hundred hands are employed and a market for the products, consisting of silk thread and silk braid, is found in all parts of the United States through agents as direct representatives of the mills. Mr. Chaffee, as a republican, was, in 1874, elected to the state legislature, and in 1885 was the choice of his constituents for state senator. In January, 1887, he was appointed aide-de-camp on the staff of Governor Lounsbury. He is president of the Natchaug Silk Company and director of the W. G. & A. R. Morrison Machine Company.

Mr. Chaffee was married to Martha, daughter of George B. Armstrong, of Mansfield. Their children are two sons, Arthur D. and Howard S., and a daughter, Gertie.

WILLIAM C. JILLSON.—The first ancestor of the Jillson family is said to have come over from Normandy with William the Conqueror in 1066. The earliest member of the family to sail for New England was William Gilson, who came from Kent county, England, and settled in Scituate, Massachusetts, in 1631. The next on the list to emigrate are Joseph and James Gilson, the latter of whom settled in Rehoboth, Massachusetts, about the year 1666. He is the progenitor of the branch of the family represented by the subject of this biography. James and his wife Mary died about 1712. Their son, Nathaniel, was born in 1675, and died in 1751. To his wife, Elizabeth, were born five children, of whom Nathaniel was the eldest. His death only is recorded as having occurred in 1782. He married first Ruth Boyce in 1728, and second Sarah, daughter of William Arnold, in 1741. He was the father of two children by the first and seven by the second union, of whom Luke, the fourth son by the last marriage, was born in 1754 and died in 1823. He was both a farmer and mechanic, and the first person in the country to adapt and apply satinet looms to water power. He married, in Cumberland, Rhode Island, Anna, daughter of Nehemiah and Experience Sherman, and made Cumberland his residence. He had seven children, among whom was Asa Jillson (the name having been, in 1709, changed from Gilson to Jillson), born September 5th, 1783, who died in Willimantic, Connecticut, April 7th, 1848. A manufacturer of cotton goods, he removed from Dorchester, Massachusetts, to Willimantic, in 1828, and spent the remainder of his life at this point. He was in 1807 married to Anna H. Sabin, of Providence. Their children were nine in number, the eldest being William L., the father of the subject of this biographical sketch, who was born in Scituate, Rhode Island, December 18th, 1807, and died in Willimantic June 1st, 1861. He married in 1831 Caroline Curtis, of South Coventry, Connecticut. Their children are five sons and three daughters, of whom William Curtis, the eldest, was born April 4th, 1833, in Willimantic, and received his education at the high schools of Ellington and his native town. His father being then engaged in the manufacture of cotton goods in Willimantic, his son at the age of eighteen entered the office to acquaint himself with the business of a manufacturer. The death of his father in 1861 threw upon him very grave responsibilities as agent and treasurer of three cotton mills—the Willimantic Duck Company, the



Wm. P. Stone & Co. N.Y.

Wm. C. Gillman

Eagle Warp Company, and the Dunham Manufacturing Company. He conducted the affairs of these companies until 1870, when the former two were merged into the Dunham Manufacturing Company, of which he continued treasurer and agent until 1876. In 1865 he established the Hop River Warp Company, to which his attention is now largely confined; not, however, to the exclusion of an interest in other important business projects. He was one of the incorporators and is the first president of the First National Bank of Willimantic, president of the Merchants' Loan and Trust Company, and vice-president of the Dime Savings Bank, both of the above town. He is also vice-president of the Hartford Life and Annuity Insurance Company, and was formerly a director of the Second National Bank of Norwich. The Hop River Warp Company embraces a warp factory and a tape mill, both of which are owned by Mr. Jillson, who has greatly improved the hamlet, afforded it many advantages in the way of postal and telegraph service, aided greatly in the erection of a new school house, and given much thoughtful consideration to the welfare of his employees. In politics Mr. Jillson is an ardent republican. He was chosen on a very close vote to represent the town of Windham in the Connecticut legislature in 1879, and was for thirteen years committee of the Second school district, during which period the schools attained high rank and the pupils exceptional scholarship. He is in his religious belief a Congregationalist, and has been chairman of the Congregational Ecclesiastical Society of Willimantic for a period of sixteen years, until the present time. William C. Jillson was married May 3d, 1859, to Maria A. Bingham, of Greenville, Connecticut. Their children are a daughter, Josephine Curtis, born May 22d, 1860, and a son, William Huntington, whose birth occurred July 18th, 1869.

WILLIAM CLITUS WITTER, son of Doctor William Witter and Emily Bingham, his wife, was born at Willimantic, Conn., November 13th, 1842, in the substantial brick house now standing at the corner of Main and Witter (now called High) streets. His ancestry, both on the father's and the mother's side, is given with some detail in the sketch of Doctor William Witter at pages 201-203 of this volume, where it is seen that he comes from some of the best and oldest New England families, the Witter, the Waldo and the Bingham. The mother of Mr. Witter died when he was five years old and the father when he was eight, leaving the

family in the care of a step-mother, who subsequently became the wife of Rev. Samuel G. Willard, the village pastor at Willimantic. For some years the subject of this sketch lived in the family of this educated, wise and good man. It was under the personal instruction and training of Mr. Willard, now recognized as one of the most admirable characters of modern Connecticut, that the early student years of Mr. Witter were spent—the years when good habits, good breeding and high aims are most readily implanted in the character. After leaving the family of Mr. Willard, he enjoyed for a time the advantages of classical study under Reverend Daniel Dorchester, a New England educator of high repute. He completed his academical studies at Bacon Academy, Colchester, Conn., and at Marion, Wayne County, New York, under the thorough instruction of Reverend Philo J. Williams, himself a native of Windham County. At the age of fifteen he was ready to enter college, but for nearly three years he devoted himself to general reading and to the acquisition of business habits in connection with the leading merchants of Providence, R. I., Messrs. G. & D. Taylor, living in the family of the senior member of that house. On entering Brown University in 1861, at the age of eighteen, he competed for the Wayland premium for best examination in the Latin language and literature, and gained the first prize. He remained at Brown University, ranking first in his class, till the end of the second college year, when he entered the Union army and served during the summer college vacation as private and non-commissioned officer in the Tenth Rhode Island regiment. Returning from the war and resuming his studies, he entered the junior class at Yale University and graduated in 1865. Deciding to embrace the profession of the law, he entered the Columbia College Law School in New York City, was vice-president of his class, graduated in 1867, and in order to learn the practical side of the profession of the law, he at once entered the law office of Evarts, Southmayd & Choate upon the invitation of Hon. William M. Evarts.

In 1869, at the solicitation of George Gifford, Esq., then the foremost lawyer of the country in those branches of the law which deal with patents for invention, copyright and trademarks, he became a student of those branches of legal learning, and during ten years remained with Mr. Gifford and in charge under him of a very large patent law practice. On the suggestion of the late Senator Roscoe Conkling he at this time received



W. W. Frost & Co. N. Y.

Wm. C. Witter

the appointment by Hon. Alexander S. Johnson of United States Examiner in Equity. In 1879 he severed his connection with Mr. Gifford and became law partner in New York City of Caus-ten Browne, Esq., under the firm name of Browne & Witter, afterwards Browne, Witter & Kenyon, and now Witter & Kenyon, appearing only in the United States Circuit and Supreme Courts, and only in causes dealing with the law of patents, trademarks and copyrights. He has attained eminence in his profession and numbers among his clients many of the largest manufacturing concerns of the country, such as The Brush Electric Company, of Cleveland, Ohio; The De Lamater Iron Works, of New York City; the great thread making companies at Willimantic, Conn., and Holyoke, Mass.; The Hartford Carpet Company, The North American Phonograph Company and many others. His only literary undertaking has been the writing of a small book intended as an aid to the acquisition of the French language, which was printed for private circulation only. He is a member of the Union League Club, the Nineteenth Century Club and of several other clubs of New York City, has been a life long republican, but too much engrossed in his profession to take a very active interest in the politics of the country.

On October 30th, 1871, he married Florence Wellington, of Cambridge, Mass., daughter of Doctor Jedediah Wellington, member of an old and highly cultured Cambridge family, earlier ancestors of whom shared in the Lexington conflict. Florence Wellington was educated with the children of Longfellow and of other Cambridge families at the school of the late Professor Louis Agassiz. There has been only one child of this union, a daughter, Florence Waldo Witter, born in New York City January 17th, 1887. Although Mr. Witter's business, city residence and citizenship are in New York City, his country seat and home are in the mountain county of his native state, at Lakeville, in the picturesque old town of Salisbury.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE TOWN OF HAMPTON.

Beautiful Scenery.—Location and Description.—Settlement.—A Part of Windham.—Organized as Canada Parish.—Its Historic Hills.—As Windham Village.—Constituted a Town.—Facts and Figures.—Bridges.—Pound.—Poor Dependents.—Town Business.—Heroic Women of the Revolution.—Military Matters.—Business Activity.—Manufacturing Projects.—The Railroad.—School Matters.—The Town Church.—Baptists.—Abbe-ites.—Christ-ians.—Roman Catholic Church.—Library.—Little River Grange.—Mills and Manufactories.—Biographical Sketches.

ONE of the beautiful towns of this beautiful rural county is the town of Hampton. The territory covers about four miles in width from east to west and about seven miles in length from north to south. It lies in the southwest central part of the county, with Eastford and Pomfret on the north; Pomfret, Brooklyn and Canterbury on the east; Scotland on the south, and Chaplin on the west. The surface in most parts is hilly, in many places elevations rising in curious, majestic and commanding forms, giving ever changing scenes of quiet rural landscape to entrance the beholder who may for the first time be spell-bound upon their inviting summits. No village of any considerable magnitude exists in the town, but the central village on Hampton Hill makes up in the surpassing attractiveness of its scenery for any lack of busy life that it may show. The New York & New England railroad passes diagonally through the town, entering near the southwest corner and leaving near the northeast corner. Goshen, or Clark's Corners, and Hampton Station are the two depots on that line within this town. A line of high hills runs through nearly the central line of the town from north to south. Between and along the eastern foot of these hills Little river runs the length of the town, furnishing on its course water power for two or three mills, which are, however, mostly falling into disuse. Some farming is pursued in the town, but in a business point of view it may be

said that the town is declining. But it cannot be that a section of country possessing such loveliness of scenery and health inspiring properties can long remain in obscure decay. Already the tide has turned in the direction of the coming uses. Whilst the old methods of farming must decline, the new methods and the summer delights which are here offered to the overheated and weary citizen of the great centers of population and business, are laying the foundations of a new system of culture, improvement and profitable use.

The territory of this town was once included in the bounds of Windham. The good quality of its soil and the cheapness of land in this neighborhood induced settlement in the early years of the history of this county. By a land distribution in 1712, Hampton Hill was opened to purchasers. Nathaniel Hovey bought land in this vicinity in 1713, and soon settled upon it. A hundred acres were soon after sold to Timothy Pearl, by one Jennings. The locality was known by the Indian name of Appaquake hill. Another lot, with land on Little river were purchased by John Durkee of Gloucester, in 1715. Other settlers on or near this hill were Abiel and Robert Holt of Andover; Nathaniel Kingsbury of Massachusetts; Thomas Fuller, John Button, George Allen and others. The settlement here was then known as Windham Village. A few sons of old Windham families like Ebenezer Abbe and Stephen Howard, joined in the settlement, but the greater part of the settlers were new-comers from Massachusetts.

In December, 1716, the town, in answer to a petition of the people, consented "that the northeast part be a parish," receiving one-fourth part of John Cates' legacy, and having two hundred pounds returned to them as rebate on what they had paid toward the new meeting house at Windham. The town then petitioned the general assembly to grant a charter to the new parish. This petition was dated May 9th, 1717. The petition was at once granted and the new society described in boundaries as follows: "Beginning at Canterbury line, to run westerly in the south line of Thomas Lasell's lot, and so in direct course to Merrick's brook, and then the said brook to be the line until it intersects the present road that leads from said town to the Burnt Cedar swamp, and from thence a straight line to the brook that empties itself into Nauchaug river about the middle of Six-Mile Meadow, at the place where Mansfield line crosseth the

said brook." The new parish comprised all of Windham that lay north of this line. The name given to it was Canada parish, from the name of David Canada, who, it is believed, built the first house in this section and kept the first tavern. As his name does not appear on early records it is supposed that he died comparatively young. David and Isaac Canada, whose names appear among the inhabitants at a later date, were probably his sons.

After surviving the trials of its infancy this parish became thriving and prosperous, many families settling in the village and along the adjacent valleys. Thomas Marsh, Benjamin Chaplin and Samuel Kimball, of the south part of Pomfret, were annexed to this society. A new road laid out from Windham Village to Pomfret in 1730, facilitated communication between these settlements. In 1723 a trio of neighbors from Ipswich, Mass., one Grow, one Fuller and Samuel Kimball settled on three hills in the northern part of the society. Each gave name to the hill on which he located, and those names are still preserved. Among the descendants of the Grow family was the Hon. Galusha Grow, of national fame, who was born here, on Grow hill, but at an early age removed to Pennsylvania where he rose to prominence in the councils of the nation. The Kimball place still remains in the family of the original settler. From Samuel Kimball it descended to his son Daniel, then to his son Asa, from whom it passed to his son Asa, who, with his son George, still occupies the ancestral homestead. This is now located on what is known as the Turnpike, once a part of the great thoroughfare between New York and Boston. The house, which is large, was formerly used as a tavern, and many are the scenes of life and festivity which have been witnessed here. The house was built about the year 1764.

Thomas Stedman, of Brookline, purchased a hundred and fifty acres of Nathaniel Kingsbury, and settled in Windham Village in 1732. Ebenezer Griffin of Newton, in 1733 settled a mile northwest of the meeting house, on land bought of William Durkée. The first store in this neighborhood is believed to have been kept by Benjamin Bidlack. Nathaniel Hovey kept an early tavern, and a full military company was formed here in 1730, with Nathaniel Kingsbury for captain and James Utley for lieutenant.

In the years that followed the first settlement Canada parish

kept pace with other sections of the town in thrift and activity, and Windham Village, on its fair hill top, was hardly less a power than Windham Green in the southwest corner. Captain James Stedman owned much land and carried on extensive farming operations. His brother Thomas was a skillful builder of meeting houses. Ebenezer Griffin, John Howard, Jacob Simmonds and others were actively engaged in business and public affairs. Jeremiah, the fifth son of John Clark, was a trader as well as a farmer, and bought up such produce as he could take to Newport or Providence on horseback to dispose of. Thus a tide of prosperity flowed into them for a long term of years.

In 1767 an effort was made to secure greater privileges to the society without becoming a distinct town. This plan failing, the society appointed Captain Jonathan Kingsbury to apply to the general assembly for a grant to allow them the rights of a distinct town. This effort was for the time also fruitless. And in this condition things remained until the end of the revolution, which of course absorbed the attention of the people to the exclusion of all minor topics. But in 1785 the people again urged their case, and the town voting by a majority of one "not to oppose the memorial," the general assembly passed the act, October 2d, 1786, "That the inhabitants of the Second Society of Windham, and those of Pomfret, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Mansfield and First Society in Windham be constituted a town by the name of Hampton. The bounds prescribed are identical with the present north, east and south bounds of the town, but on the west it extended to the Natchaug river, taking in a section now included in the town of Chaplin. About twelve hundred acres were taken from Brooklyn, a generous slice from Mansfield, and narrow strips from Canterbury and Pomfret. The first town meeting of the new town was held November 13th, 1786, at which Captain James Stedman acted as moderator. Officers were chosen as follows: Thomas Stedman, clerk; Captain Stedman, Deacon Bennet, Jeduthan Rogers, selectmen; Andrew Durkee, Joseph Fuller and William Martin, Jr., constables; and a committee was also appointed to view and adjust the proportion of bridges belonging to the old town that should fall to the new. This important committee consisted of Philip Pearl, Ebenezer Hovey, Josiah Kingsley, Silas Cleveland, Andrew Durkee, Amos Utley, Thomas Fuller and Colonel Moseley.

In 1790 the census showed that Hampton had a population of

1,332 whites and one slave. The greater part of its inhabitants were engaged in agriculture. Colonel Moseley after the war opened a store and engaged successfully in various business enterprises and public affairs. Captain James Howard was early interested in manufactures, running grist, saw and fulling mills in the valley that bore his name.

The settlement of the question in regard to several bridges was a matter of much concern between Hampton and the mother town of Windham. The committee appointed at the first town meeting was joined by a committee from the old town in appealing to the general assembly, which body appointed a commission to investigate the matter. This commission met at Widow Cary's at Windham Green, in May, 1787, and after hearing testimony decided that Hampton should pay £10 a year toward the maintenance of the three bridges which Windham had to keep in repair over the Shetucket. Hampton now replied that it had to maintain two bridges over the Natchaug, and in consideration of this fact the assembly reduced the award to £5 a year toward the Shetucket bridges.

One of the first achievements of the town was a pound, which was ordered to be built with a stone wall for foundation, six feet high, four feet thick at the bottom and two feet at the top. Three feet from the ground it was bound by a tier of flat stones, and it had a similar tier upon the top, and was finished by four sticks of hewed timber ten inches thick, linked together, with a good gate four feet wide. The erection of this structure was awarded to Amos Utley, who accomplished the work in a most workmanlike and satisfactory manner.

The disposition of the poor of the town was another perplexing question which arose between the new town and the old. It was, however, amicably adjusted. Hampton then decided to farm out its poor to those who would keep them for the lowest price. A single man was accordingly "bid off" by Jonathan Hovey at five shillings nine pence a week, an aged couple by Amos Utley at five shillings, and a widow woman by another bidder at two shillings. The town was particularly careful to avoid, as far as lay in their power to do, the possibilities of incurring needless burdens in dependent persons. Transient persons were looked upon with a jealous eye, and about 1792 Philip Pearl was appointed an agent to prosecute those who harbored transient persons. In 1788 the town voted that those who took

the poor to keep at a certain price should keep them whether in sickness or in health, and should furnish them with all necessary spirits, and on the other hand should be entitled to the benefit of whatever work they were able to do. As these poor people were mostly aged or ailing, the small price at which they were "bid off" was often found too small to pay their doctor's bills, and so a special sum was allowed for that purpose. Medical attendance for the poor was thus "bid off" in the same manner as their support. The prices ranged from £2, 16s. to £22. The bidder in some cases was to employ what doctor he pleased, and in other cases the poor were gratified with their choice of a physician.

It is evident that in its corporate capacity this little town was decidedly ambitious, both as to its standing among other towns of the county and in regard to its own internal dignity. It took active part in general deliberations, and for many years about the close of the last century strongly urged its claim to the distinction of the county seat. The regulations for the orderly conduct of town meetings, passed by the town meeting September 15th, 1300, are so unique that we must be pardoned for inserting them here. They are as follows:

"1. Choose a moderator. 2. Annual meeting to be opened by prayer. 3. Every member be seated with his hat on, and no member to leave his seat unnecessarily, and if necessary, to do it with as little noise as possible. 5. Members while speaking shall address the moderator and him only, and speak with the hat off. 6. No member to speak more than twice upon one subject without leave of the meeting, and but once until each member has had opportunity to speak. 7. As soon as a member has done speaking he will take his seat and not speak after he is seated. 8. Every member must speak directly to the question before the meeting. 10. No persons have any right to do private business in any part of the house."

The patriotic spirit of this town has been a subject of common remark. The days of the revolution witnessed it. Even among the women, it was fired to the height of heroic devotion. Elsewhere in this volume the reader is told of the resolute spirit with which the women of this town carried forward with their own hands the erection of a building, when the able-bodied men of the town were all away in their country's service. After the war, the military spirit that had so characterized the

residents of this vicinity was not suffered to decline. Hampton took especial pride in her company of grenadiers, which was formed soon after the close of the war and sustained with great spirit for many years. The roster of this company contained the names of many revolutionary veterans. Strength and large size were essential qualifications for admission to this honored band, and many of them were worthy of a place in Frederick William's Tall Regiment. It played an important part on many public occasions, and took the first and highest places in the great regimental musterings for which Hampton hill was especially famous. Successive captains of it were Thomas Stedman, Jr., Thomas Williams, who had removed from Plainfield to Hampton, Roger Clark and Philip Pearl, Jr. The militia companies of the town were also well sustained. Ebenezer Moseley was appointed colonel of the Fifth regiment in 1789; Elijah Simons served several years as its lieutenant-colonel, and Lemuel Dorrance, one of Hampton's young physicians, as its surgeon.

For many years this interest in military matters was kept up. Its regular trainings and occasional musters were observed as gala days by the whole population. One of the great days of this kind, long remembered by those who witnessed it, was the semi-centennial celebration of the declaration of independence, which was duly commemorated here July 4th, 1826. Hampton's celebration of this auspicious day was almost as preternaturally impressive as the "Midnight Review" of Napoleon's grand army, portrayed by an imaginative poet. Not the *phantoms* here, but the material, living men themselves, who had marched to Lexington and braved the carnage of many battles, to the number of *forty-two* gray-haired veterans, appeared in their old-time costume and marched up and down the length of the village street to the music and the drums of "'76." At their head was their old leader, Abijah Fuller, and Nathaniel Farnham as drum-major, and Joseph Foster and Lucius Faville as fifers. Other military companies present did homage to the veteran band, who were treated by their admiring fellow citizens to a free dinner, and throughout the day they were the most conspicuous objects of attention. At that time Samuel Moseley served as lieutenant colonel of the Fifth regiment, and Chauncey F. Cleveland was captain of the Hampton company. The military bearing of the latter, together with his affable manner, gave him great popu-

larity as an officer, and he was rapidly promoted, rising from the ranks to the highest military office in the state.

In the early years of the present century business was quite active, and various enterprises were prosecuted with vigor. Shubael Simons obtained liberty to erect a dam on Little river for the benefit of a grist mill, and potash works were carried on in the same vicinity. Edmond Hughes made and repaired clocks and watches. Colonel Simons engaged in trade. Roger and Solomon Taintor, who removed to Hampton about 1804, engaged extensively in exchanging domestic produce for foreign goods. In town affairs Colonel Ebenezer Moseley succeeded Thomas Stedman as town clerk in 1797, and retained the office many years. He was often sent as deputy to the general assembly. Other deputies during the successive years of that period were Deacon Isaac Bennett, Philip Pearl, Jonathan Kingsbury, Doctor John Brewster and William Huntington. The justices about that time were Colonel Moseley, Deacon Bennett, James Burnett and Philip Pearl. A public library was instituted in the town in 1807, which soon contained over a hundred volumes. In the census year 1800 Hampton had a population of one thousand three hundred and seventy-nine, and its grand list then footed up to \$38,231.01.

During the second decade of the present century some attention was given to manufacturing projects, though this town has never been aroused to conspicuous movements in that direction. The introduction of carding machines so stimulated domestic industry that three fulling machines were kept busily at work in dressing and dyeing the woven fabrics. After the war of 1812, which by the way had but little effect on this town, a flourishing hat manufactory was established here by Luther D. Leach. During this period the men who were conspicuous in town affairs, holding different offices of honor and responsibility, were Doctor Brewster, who succeeded Colonel Moseley as town clerk; Colonel Simons, Roger Clark, John Tweedy, Daniel Searls and John Loomis, serving as selectmen; Philip Pearl, James Burnett, Ebenezer Griffin and Joseph Prentice, as justices; Luther Burnett as constable; James Utley and Jonathan Clark, as collectors; Colonel Moseley, Ebenezer Griffin, Roger and Solomon Taintor, William Burnett and Joseph Prentice, as representatives. Mason Cleveland was chosen town clerk in 1825. William Durkee, Edmond Badger and Hezekiah Hammond were then selectmen,

and N. F. Martin, C. Moulton, C. F. Cleveland, Roger Taintor, Daniel Searls and Jonathan Clark, justices of the peace. Later conspicuous men in town offices were Elijah and Lucius Greenslit, William Brown, Harvey Fuller, William Durkee, Alonzo Martin, Charles Griffin, Charles C. Button and William Bennett. Hampton was made a distinct probate district in 1836, and its first probate judge was Edward S. Moseley.

When the era of railroads opened upon the country Hampton was for many years left in the background, other towns more advantageously situated attracting population from towns remotely situated as this town was. By this means it suffered a decline in business and population. But it was at last brought back again to a favorable standing in the world of modern activity through the agency of a railroad thoroughfare, the New York & New England, for which auspicious turn in the tide of destiny the town is largely indebted to the untiring energies of its distinguished and influential citizen, Governor Cleveland. This has been the means of giving to the people a business of some importance in the entertainment of summer boarders from the cities. Vicinity to a great railroad which communicates directly with two of the great cities of the country, brings each year a larger number to enjoy the fine air and outlook of Hampton hill, and cordial hospitality of its many agreeable residents.

As early as 1763 a committee was appointed to divide the society into school districts. Though this body was slow in fulfilling its mission, yet in the course of two years the work was done. The First, or Central district, very properly began by "taking in the Reverend Mr. Moseley and ranging so as to take in Mr. Joseph Sessions, and from thence west to Burnt Cedar swamp, and then following the main stream of Cedar Swamp brook till it comes to the road below Benjamin Burgess', and from thence to said Moseley's." Number Two extended "from old Mr. John Perkins' to Mr. Joseph Burnham's, and all east and south of Cedar Swamp brook." Number Three ran "from Jonathan Holt's, taking in Holt's house, and north, taking in all the inhabitants situated on the road to Mr. Joseph Marsh's, taking in said Marsh's house, and from thence taking in Mr. William Alworth's and James Alworth's house, and ranging north to the easternmost extent of the society." Number Four took in "Mr. Stephen Clark's house, and then south all the inhabitants west of Cedar swamp, and so far as to take in Mr. Jonathan Fish's

and Mr. David Canada's houses, and so south and west to the extent of the society." School house sites were affixed by William Osgood and Seth Paine of Pomfret, and Benajah Cary of Windham, viz., one in the northeast district near Deacon Griffin's house, and two in the northwest or Fourth district, one nine rods south of William Holt's, another eight rods west of John Fuller's. "Eleven months schooling by a master, to be kept in each district according to its list," was thought sufficient for the whole society, and this was supplemented by "school dames" in the summer time for the instruction of the smaller children. A fifth district was set off in 1774 in the northeast section, known as Appaquake. The number of districts was afterward still further increased, so that by 1790 there were eight districts in the town.

When Canada parish was first invested with society privileges it was stipulated that the people of this section should raise a tax among themselves for the support of the ministry of the town equal to the rate of taxation for that purpose in other parts of the town, until they should have a minister of their own. Great difficulty was experienced in enforcing the stipulation, and the subject was repeatedly brought by petitions before the general assembly. As soon as it became practicable a minister was secured, and religious services were held for a time in private houses, until the erection of a meeting house could be consummated. In 1722 the services of Reverend William Billings were obtained. He came from Preston, and was a graduate of Yale two years previous. He was formally ordained and installed in June, 1723. A meeting house had been begun and was at this time probably completed sufficiently to be used for public gatherings.

An episode in the ecclesiastical history of this town during the pastorate of Mr. Billings furnishes an example of the importance which the people of that day attached to the rampages of the tongue. In 1729 the minister made complaint to the County Association that one of his parishioners had made slighting remarks about his preaching. A committee was accordingly appointed, and after successive and various action extending through two or three years the following confession was duly published before the congregation over the signature of the offender:

"I acknowledge before God and this church yt my saying 'I had

rather hear my dog bark than Mr. Billings preach,' was a vile and scandalous expression, tending to ye dishonor of our Lord Jesus Christ and his ambassadors, as also of religion in general. I do hereby declare before God and ye church my sorrow and repentance for it, humbly asking your forgiveness, and resolve to have a greater watch and guard over my tongue."

Similar confessions were often required of those who had been "overtaken with strong drink," though no censure appears to have been visited upon those old church members who sold or supplied the intoxicants by which the weaker victims were "overtaken."

The pastorate of Mr. Billings closed with his death, May 20th, 1733. One hundred and seventy-two persons had been admitted to the church during his ten years term of service. His successor was Samuel Moseley, of Dorchester, a graduate of Harvard in 1729, ordained here May 15th, 1734. Mr. Moseley was an able and earnest preacher, dignified in manner and strict in doctrine and discipline. He was a member of the Windham County Association, though it appears evident that he was not at this time in full sympathy with the ecclesiastical constitution of Connecticut. When the great revival swept over the county about 1742, he was very active in promoting the work, laboring with great earnestness at home and abroad, and receiving no less than one hundred and twenty-five persons into full communion with his church. He opposed the authority of Consociation and declared to the brethren that their church was not under Saybrook Platform and otherwise favored the Separatists' sentiments, but when he foresaw the disastrous consequences which might result from the action of the extreme leaders he became more conservative in policy, and by such a course doubtless maintained a greater degree of harmony and prosperity in his church than might have been felt had he opposed the revival at first, or kept pace with the extremists in the later stages. The secession from the church toward the Separate churches was much less than in many others. There were, however, a few. Its excellent deacon, Thomas Marsh, who for more than twenty years had served the Lord's table, John Hovey and some other prominent members were unable to remain in its fellowship and united with the Separate church of Mansfield, which was organized by the Separatists of that town and Windham and vicinity, October 9th, 1745. Soon after this the erection of a new meet-

ing house received attention, and while it was under consideration the assembly annexed several families, who by location and choice belonged in this connection, to Abington. Vigorous remonstrances and petitions prevailed with the assembly, however, and twenty-six families thus situated within the bounds of neighboring societies, but in more convenient proximity to this church, were allowed to join with Hampton Society in erecting a meeting house, and be exempted from taxation for similar objects in the societies with which they were legally associated. Thus strengthened, the society was able to complete its meeting house in 1754. It was a substantial structure, fitted to abide for many generations. It was furnished with one of those ornaments peculiar to that time, a "sounding board," upon which was inscribed the motto, "*Holiness unto the Lord.*" The seating of this meeting house a few years later gave rise to considerable disturbance. The seating committee had unwisely ordered six persons to sit in one pew, which was regarded as great compressing of the corporal properties and consequent personal dignity of church attendants. The committee had also offended in allowing "men of little or no estate to sit very forward and in high pews," while others of good estate and high in public esteem were compelled to take lower seats. Complaint was also made that the galleries were so given over to light-minded youth that the tithing-men were obliged to leave their seats below to preserve order in the galleries. Dissatisfaction existed until 1762, when it was voted to sell the pews at public vendue, and this vote, though stoutly opposed by many, was carried out. Twenty-five pews on the floor of the house were sold to the following persons at prices ranging from three up to fourteen pounds: Jeremiah Utley, John Fuller, Hezekiah Hammond, Stephen Durkee, Timothy Pearl, Zebediah Farnham, Ebenezer Hovey, Captain John Howard, Deacon Ebenezer Griffin, Henry Durkee, Daniel Farnham, Thomas Stedman, Jr., Isaac Bennett, Jephthah Utley, William Farnham, Joseph Burnham, John Hammond, Benjamin Cheddle, Stephen Arnold, John Sessions, Jonathan Clark, Samuel Fuller, John Smith, Gideon Martin, Isaac Clark. Notwithstanding the fact that many of these men were the leading, solid men of the community, a storm of opposition was aroused, subsequent meetings were held and the matter was finally appealed to the general assembly, and

by that body the sale of pews was declared null and void. The society now resumed possession of its pews, and a committee was appointed to seat the congregation therein with requisite order and formality. Some degree of harmony seems to have been restored by this action. Repairs were made on the building in 1768, and it was determined to keep pace with the times by giving the building a coat of paint. A committee composed of Captain Kingsbury, Abiel Abbott and Thomas Fuller, was appointed to attend to the business, and they were ordered to "color the same something like the color of Pomfret meeting house."

In 1769 a strong division of opinion arose between Mr. Moseley and his parishioners, resulting from his exercise of a dictatorial power over the church which he claimed by authority of the Saybrook platform. This platform was not in accord with the general sentiment of the society, but so ingeniously and effectually did Mr. Moseley exercise the powers in hand as moderator of all meetings that he defeated the purpose of the church to have a body of ruling elders elected to exercise some of the functions of government. In the contest which followed between pastor and people much bitterness was aroused, and much unchristian and discourteous language indulged in. In 1779 a church court before whom the matters were brought gave its verdict of advice, which seems to have been at least outwardly regarded—"never more to revive, nor suffer to be revived, any of those matters of difficulty which have been under the consideration of the council, but to bury this long unhappy contention in everlasting oblivion." After this the pastor gained somewhat in the affections of his people, and continued here to the end of life, though for several years he was confined to his bed by rheumatism and paralysis. He died July 26th, 1791, in the eighty-third year of his age and the fifty-eighth year of his pastorate. He left two sons and six daughters. During the long period of his incapacity to occupy the pulpit, his place had been often filled by his son-in-law, Reverend Joseph Steward, whose health, however, would not allow him to be inducted as colleague pastor. Other young ministers who had assisted during this period were Hendrick Dow, of Ashford, and Ebenezer Fitch, of Canterbury. After the death of Mr. Moseley, a call was extended to Reverend Ludovicus Weld, of Braintree, and he was accordingly ordained October 17th, 1792. The compliment was paid him

that he was "especially noted for his skill in composing sermons." In 1796 a bell was procured, through the instrumentality of Colonel Moseley, a son of the late pastor. It was ordered that the bell should be rung at noon every day, at nine o'clock every night, at eight o'clock on Saturday nights, and to be tolled for evening meetings and lectures, and to give the day of the month every evening. The deacons at this time were Isaac Bennett and Abijah Fuller, of revolutionary fame. Infirmities brought on by close application and sedentary habits compelled Mr. Weld to seek a dismissal from his charge in 1824. The church almost immediately united in a call to Reverend Daniel G. Sprague, of Killingly, who was installed May 26th of the same year. The interest which Mr. Sprague took in the reform questions which then agitated the public mind made him a valued acquisition to the county ministry. Through his influence a temperance society was promptly formed and efficiently maintained, although impeded in its growth by the convivialities for which the town had long been noted. In 1837 the meeting house needed rebuilding or repairing, and the question as to which should be done was in agitation for a long time, but it was decided at last to repair the old house. It was moved to a new site, remodeled and refurnished, and this being done it was dedicated anew May 9th, 1840.

Meanwhile Reverend Daniel G. Sprague was dismissed in 1838, and his successor was called. This was Reverend Daniel C. Frost, who served the church from 1840 to 1841. Reverend William Barnes, the sixth pastor of the church, was installed in 1842 and dismissed in 1847. After that date Reverend Richard Woodruff supplied the church for several years. In 1853 Reverend George Soule was engaged as a supply, and in 1855 he was installed as pastor. During the war he was absent one year as chaplain of the Eleventh Connecticut volunteers, but being discharged on account of ill health he returned to his charge here and died in the pastorate in 1867. The eighth pastor was Reverend G. J. Tillotson, who was installed in 1873 and dismissed in 1875. Reverend Daniel Denison, a son of this church, began labors here as a supply in August, 1885, and continues at the present time. Two other ministers have grown up from the pale of this church, and are now preaching. They are Reverends A. C. Denison, of Middlefield, Conn., and Sherrod Soule, of Beverly, Mass. Although the loss to the church by removal

and death has been very great, yet its activity and usefulness are remarkably well preserved, as though indeed it was a branch of the true vine of God's own planting.

Several other churches have had more or less of a foothold in this town in past years. In June, 1776, a Baptist church was organized on the border between this town and Abington. One of their number, William Grow, was ordained as their pastor. This church for a time gained in numbers and influence until it included some forty families among its resident attendants. A great scandal is said to have involved its first pastor to such an extent that he was obliged to resign his office and remove to Vermont. Jordan Dodge, Dyer Hebard, and other exhorters, were in the habit of preaching to this flock. Abel Palmer, a brilliant young Baptist of Colchester, supplied the pulpit for a time with satisfaction to the people. In 1794 Peter Rogers was called and settled, and remained in charge for a number of years. The patriarch of this church was its worthy deacon, Thomas Grow, whose name was affixed to the meeting house on Grow hill, built mainly by his efforts. In later years it suffered decline from the lack of stated preaching and the uprising of another religious order in its vicinity. It was, however, much strengthened by the coming of a son of Abington, Elder John Paine, to its pastorate. He was ordained here October 28th, 1819, and at the same time Asahel Elliott and Gurdon Robinson were made deacons. Elder Paine continued in charge until 1827. After his dismissal the church lost ground rapidly, and became extinct about 1844.

The religious order which seemed to be making advance upon the Baptist church near the close of the last century were known as Abbe-ites. They were led by one Joshua Abbe. They were represented as a sect of Baptists, but having no association with any other churches of that name. Their meetings were said to be loud with disorder, men and women speaking two or three or more at the same time, while to complete the confusion, sobs, sighs and groans were thrown in without stint. After a few years this sect gradually gave place to another sect of Christian reformers under the leadership of Elders Smith and Varnum, who obtained a strong foothold here for a time. They at first followed in the footsteps of the previous Abbe-ites, washing each other's feet and rolling on the floor to express their humility and lowliness; but after the removal of Varnum and his more

ardent proselytes to Ohio, they renounced these excesses and adopted ordinary forms of worship. Elder Roger Bingham was ordained as a Christ-ian minister (the sect being known by that peculiar hyphenated form of a common word), and officiated in the Goshen and Burnham meeting houses, which had been erected for the accommodation of this sect of worshippers. William Burnham served as deacon of the church in his neighborhood. Worship was for several years regularly maintained in these houses, but they met their period of decadence and were obliged to give place to others. The Christ-ian church at Howard's Valley, an outgrowth of those just mentioned, was built in 1844. Reverend Isaac Coe, now of New Bedford, Mass., was very active in establishing it, and was the first minister. There have generally been stated services there, though but a small number of worshippers. Not long ago they had a gift of a bell from Gordon W. Burnham, late of New York city, whose parents belonged here. They have also been presented with a cabinet organ by David Clark, of Hartford, whose parents were of the Goshen district. The present pastor of the church is Reverend R. H. Nichols.

A large and handsome Roman Catholic church occupies a commanding position on the crown of the "Hill." It was built in the fall of 1877, and finished in the following spring. An acre of ground was given them for its site by Hon. E. S. Cleveland. The cost of the building was about \$4,000. At the time the church was built there were thirty-four families belonging to it. They have lost six families by removals to localities more favorable to the employment of younger members in factories. For a time there was a resident priest, but services are now conducted on alternate Sundays by the priest from Danielsonville. No cemetery has as yet been established here by the sect.

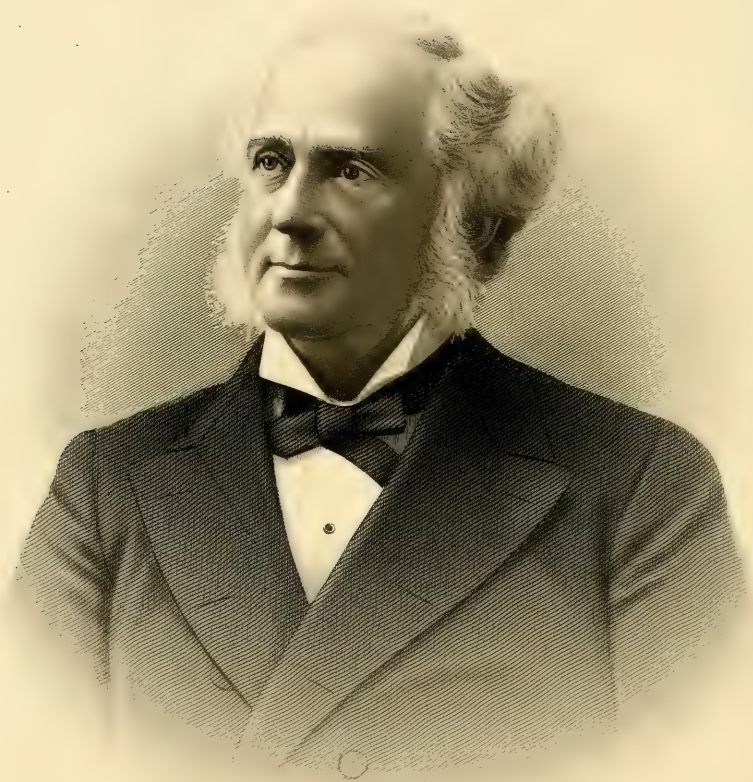
The Hampton Library was begun in 1827. After about three years it was given up and the books were sold. In 1856 an effort was made to revive it, and the books were bought back and a new association was formed. This has continued in tolerably healthy existence until the present time. The library now contains eleven hundred volumes, the greater part of which are valuable and solid books—history, biography, science and a healthy mixture of poetry and romance.

Little River Grange, No. 36, was organized at the house of Mr. George M. Holt, in Hampton, December 29th, 1885, with twenty-

two charter members. The following officers were chosen at that time: George M. Holt, master; James A. Burnham, overseer; Mrs. Joseph W. Clark, lecturer; Chester B. Jewett, steward; George H. Kimball, assistant steward; Joseph W. Clark, chaplain; Nathan J. Holt, treasurer; David P. Weaver, secretary; Jirah F. Hyde, gate-keeper; Mrs. Allen Jewett, Pomona; Miss Louise Jewett, Flora; Miss May A. Weaver, Ceres; Miss Iola M. Clark, lady assistant. The office of master has been held by George M. Holt, 1886 and 1887; William H. Hammond for 1888; and Nathan J. Holt for 1889. The grange has a membership of fifty-four, and holds fortnightly meetings in the town hall, with a good attendance. The membership embraces some of the best farmers of the town and their families. The meetings are interesting and their numbers increasing. The present officers are: Nathan J. Holt, master; Austin E. Pearl, overseer; Mrs. N. C. Cleveland, lecturer; Everett O. Elliott, steward; Jirah F. Hyde, assistant steward; Albert E. Guild, chaplain; Horatio Martin, treasurer; Henry Clapp, secretary; Elmer Jewett, gate-keeper; Mrs. William H. Hammond, Pomona; Mrs. George R. Burroughs, Flora; Mrs. D. P. Weaver, Ceres; Mrs. Leroy Pearl, lady assistant.

Little river in its course through this town has for many generations afforded power for saw mills and other works of moderate capacity. Some of these it may be interesting to notice. The saw mill owned by Mr. Andrew M. Litchfield was formerly owned by Mr. Ebenezer Stedman, then by Deacon Thomas Williams, from whom it was purchased by the present owner in 1825. It is located in the Bigelow district. Three men are employed much of the time. About 30,000 feet of lumber are sawed per year. Shingles, shuttles, boards, plank and all kinds of building timber are produced. A grist mill in connection grinds about 1,200 bushels a year. In 1835 a clover mill was also built, in which about 4,000 pounds of seed per annum were hulled and cleaned. This clover mill was carried away by the great freshet of 1877. The business at the present time appears to be in a condition of decline, and the above remarks in regard to its capacity and business apply rather to the past than to the present. Below this mill, near the south line of the town, stood a satinet factory which was run by Moseley & Rocking. The mill was burned several years since, and the site is now occupied by Theodore L. Fuller with a grist mill and cidér





E. Cleveland

mill. Further up the stream, and before we get to Litchfield's mill site, once stood a cotton factory and a saw mill and a grist mill. These were owned by Samuel and Lodowick Wolcott, and were burned several years since, the site then being abandoned. Above Litchfield's mills we come to the former site of a bark mill, a grist mill and a tannery. This was known as Rockwell's mills. The grist mill is still running, but the other enterprises were destroyed by fire some years since. The next enterprise on the stream above was a combination of shingle mill, clover mill, pin manufactory and manufactory of German silver spoons. A freshet, probably that of 1877, swept the whole concern away and it has not since been rebuilt. Another saw mill stood next in order up the stream, but has been abandoned. Farther still was once the site of a clover mill owned by Walter Lyon, but that has long since passed away. Another saw mill stands in the south part of the town on Cedar Swamp brook. It is owned by Mr. Joseph Clark.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

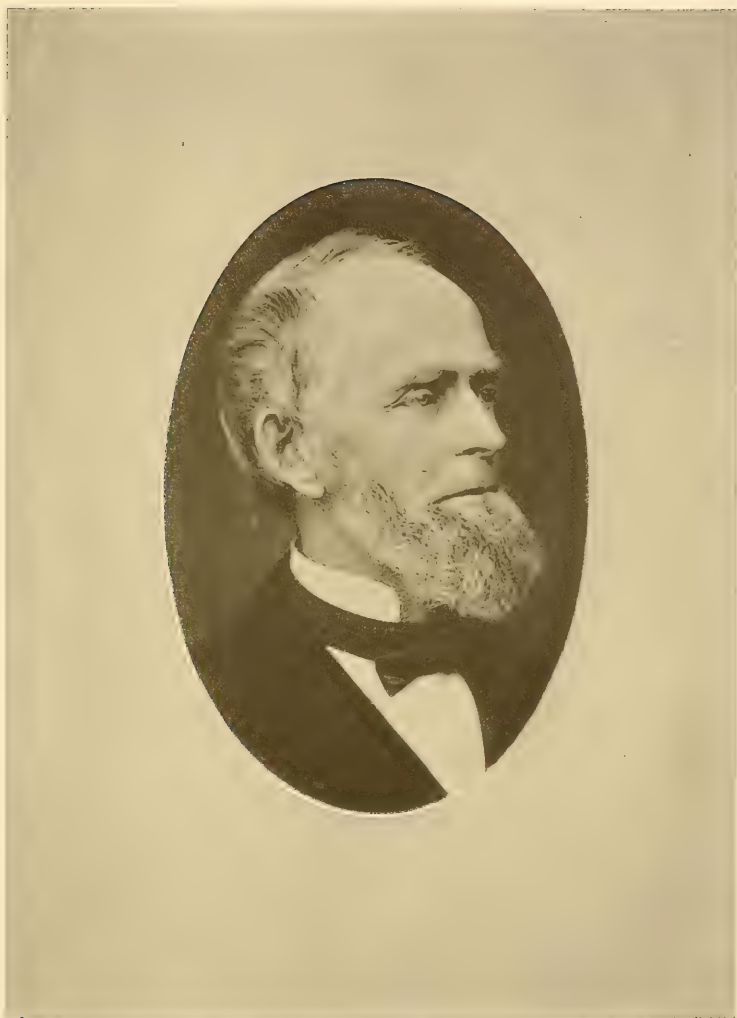
EDWARD SPICER CLEVELAND.—The subject of this sketch was born in the town of Hampton, in Windham county, Connecticut, on the 22d of May, A. D. 1825. He was the son of the Hon. Mason Cleveland, who was a man of much influence, and universally respected throughout the state, having been both a representative from his town and a senator from his district, also comptroller of the state and subsequently school fund commissioner. He died in the year 1855, soon after the expiration of his term as school fund commissioner. E. S. Cleveland was a nephew of Hon. Chauncey F. Cleveland, also of Hampton, who was repeatedly elected to the legislature and served several terms as speaker of the house, and was governor of the state for two terms, from 1842 to 1844, and subsequently served two terms in congress from the Third congressional district.

Edward Spicer Cleveland received a common school education, with a brief period at the Thompson Academy in the same county. At the age of sixteen he entered upon a mercantile career in Hartford, the capital of the state, as a clerk. At the close of this engagement he opened a dry goods establishment on his own account. Soon after, he was married to Miss Caroline Lucinda Bolles, daughter of Mr. Edward Bolles, one of the leading mer-

chants of Hartford. This occurred in 1846. Mr. Cleveland continued in mercantile business until the year 1861, when he was appointed postmaster at Hartford by President Lincoln. At the expiration of his term of four years he was re-commissioned for another term by Mr. Lincoln's successor. After eight years' service in this position he resumed his residence in Hampton, which town he represented in the state legislature in the years 1875 and 1876. In 1877 he returned to Hartford, where he has since resided. In 1883 he was elected to the lower house of the legislature, and in 1885 to the senate, and re-elected in 1888. He was the candidate of the democratic party for governor of the state in the year 1886, by a unanimous nomination, receiving a plurality of 1,898 of the popular vote, there being four candidates in the field. He would have been inaugurated but for that familiar clause in the constitution, dating back to 1818, which requires a *majority* instead of a *plurality* to elect. This provision required that the names of the two highest candidates should be sent to the legislature for choice, and that body, being republican by a small majority, decided in favor of the republican candidate, who lacked nearly 9,000 votes of a majority. Mr. Cleveland, by the courtesy of the senate, of which he is still a member, is a visitor for the term of two years to the Scientific School at New Haven, and a state trustee of the Connecticut Insane Hospital at Middletown, for four years from July 1st, 1889.

On the 8th of March, 1889, Mr. Cleveland sustained an irreparable loss by the death of his wife, who was a lady of the highest excellence, always devoted to the household of which she was the light and joy. She was the mother of three children, two of whom survive her, Edward Mason and John. George Henry, the second son, died in 1865. Mr. Cleveland has retired from active pursuits, dividing his time between his country residence at Hampton in the summer, and his home in Hartford during the winter. The care of the household since the death of Mrs. Cleveland has devolved upon the estimable wife of his younger son, John; and her children, named respectively Chauncey Fitch and Edward Spicer, 2d, are the especial care and pride of their grandfather.

DAVID GREENSLIT.—Elijah Greenslit, a farmer and the landlord of one of the early taverns of the town of Hampton, married Mary Burnham. His children were: David, Elijah, Henry, Ebenezer, and one daughter. His son David spent his life in



David Boarslit

Hampton, the town of his birth, where he was an industrious and prosperous farmer. He married Nancy, daughter of William Foster, of Canterbury. To this union were born nine children, of whom Lucius, William F. and David grew to mature years.

David Greenslit was born June 2d, 1817, in Hampton, and spent his early years at the schools in the vicinity of his home. At the age of sixteen he became useful as an assistant in the work of the farm, and was thus occupied until his nineteenth year. Leaving the paternal roof he then removed to Brooklyn, the adjoining town, and was for nearly two years engaged as a teacher. Soon after, he purchased a farm in Windham, but preferring a home in his native town, was influenced to dispose of this property and locate as a farmer in Hampton. He was on the 26th of May, 1840, married to Elizabeth, daughter of John Searls, of Brooklyn. Their only daughter, Charlotte E., died in 1866 at the age of twenty-two years.

Mr. Greenslit was in 1844 made a deputy sheriff of Windham county, and was for nine years the incumbent of the office. He was then appointed by the legislature to fill the unexpired term as sheriff, and subsequently elected for two terms to the same office. In 1866 he was elected to the state senate from the Thirteenth senatorial district, and appointed chairman of the committee on state prisons. In 1878 he was elected to the Connecticut house of representatives, and made chairman of the same committee. He has served several years on the republican state central committee, and had much experience in political matters pertaining to the state. Mr. Greenslit is a director of the Windham County National Bank, and has been for ten years president of the Windham County Mutual Insurance Company, as also adjuster of losses for that corporation. He is a director of the Willimantic Dime Savings Bank. Mr. Greenslit, though not a professional man, has given much attention to the study of law, his occupation as a business agent requiring him to be well versed in legal rules and practices. His services are much sought in the settlement of estates and in kindred offices involving great responsibility and well balanced judgment. Among other positions of trust he was in 1866 appointed by the legislature a member of the board of equalization for the Thirteenth senatorial district.

SAMUEL STRONG MOSELEY.—The Moseley family are among the oldest and most prominent in the town of Hampton. The father of the subject of this biography, Ebenezer Moseley, was a preacher of considerable repute in his day. His son, Samuel Strong Moseley, was born at the homestead of the family in Hampton, in 1786, and in his native town the whole of his active life was spent. He received an academic education, and early embarked in mercantile pursuits, to which he later added farming. In both of these branches of industry he brought to bear the ability and thrift which were the inevitable precursors of success. He was also a large dealer in cattle and sheep, these operations proving extremely profitable. Mr. Moseley was actively identified with the public affairs of his county, and bore a prominent part in its political conflicts. He represented his constituents for successive terms in the Connecticut house of representatives, and filled numerous offices of lesser importance in the town.

He was united in marriage to Harriet Bulkley, of Colchester, Connecticut. To this union were born four sons: Edward S., who served two terms as state treasurer; George, William and Henry; and two daughters, Eliza and Mary, the first named daughter being the only survivor of these children. Mr. Moseley died in 1866.



W. W. Frost & Co. N.Y.

Samuel A. Mosely

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE TOWN OF SCOTLAND.

Description.—Original Connection.—First Settler.—Early Attractions.—Settlers coming in.—Church Association.—Disquiet in Society Relations.—Scotland Society Organized.—Minister Employed and a Meeting House Built.—Peace and Prosperity.—The Separate Movement.—Separate Church.—The Standing Church and the Schools.—Leading Men in Society.—Successive Pastors.—Period of the Revolution.—The Congregational Church in Later Days.—Universalism.—Business and Industry in the Town.—Organization of the Town.—Its Size and Growth.—Illustrious Citizens.—Present Status.—Shetucket Grange.—The Green and its Surroundings.

THE township of Scotland, lying in the southwestern part of the county, is about six miles long from north to south, and about three miles wide. It lies on the southern border of the county, being bounded on the north by Hampton and a small part of Chaplin, on the east by Canterbury, on the south by Lisbon and Franklin, in the county of New London, and on the west by Windham. It comprehends about eighteen square miles of territory, much of which is hilly and in a wild condition. This is particularly true of the northern part of the town. In the central and southern parts there is a great deal of good farming land, and the improved farms and residences give a very attractive and home like appearance to the country. The surface is sufficiently rolling to make the rural landscape fascinatingly picturesque. Merrick's brook runs down through the middle of the town, joining the Shetucket in the southwest corner of the town. The Providence Division of the New York & New England railroad also runs with the Shetucket river across the southwest corner of the town. Here is Waldo's station, a locality surrounded by swamps and woods, an ancient saw mill having once been in operation near by on the stream already mentioned. Scotland presents to the passer-by one of those ripened communities in which the people are quietly and peacefully enjoying the fruits of labor performed in former years, rather than living on the sweat of present activities. The surrounding

forest growth affords considerable timber, which is utilized in railroad ties. Scotland in 1870 had a population of 648; in 1880 the population was reduced to 590. As the history of the town is but little more than the history of the ecclesiastical society out of which it grew, we shall address ourselves at once to the consideration of that subject.

The territory of this town was originally a part of the extensive domain of ancient Windham, being the southeast section of that town. Settlement began here about the year 1700. The first settler was Isaac Magoon, a Scotchman, who gave to his adopted home the name of his native country. He was admitted an inhabitant of Windham in 1698, and chose to establish himself east of Merrick's brook, in a remote and uninhabited part of the town. The brook of which we have spoken is supposed to have been named in honor of an early Norwich land owner. In 1700 Magoon purchased of Mr. Whiting several hundred acres, in the southern extremity of Clark & Buckingham's tract. The first rude hut built by him in this locality is said to have been destroyed by fire, whereupon his Windham neighbors helped him to rebuild it. He afterward bought sixty acres on both sides of Merrick's brook, and crossed by the road from Windham to Plainfield, of Joshua Ripley, and this is supposed to have been his homestead. This road becoming a great thoroughfare between more important points, and the good quality of the soil here, as well as the natural beauty of location, soon attracted other settlers to the spot. In 1701 Magoon sold farms to Samuel Palmer, John Ormsbee, and Daniel and Nathaniel Fuller, all of whom came hither from Rehoboth. In 1702 Josiah Kingsley, John Waldo, Nathaniel Rudd, Josiah Palmer and Ralph Wheelock purchased land of Crane and Whiting and removed to this new settlement. Waldo's land, in the south of this settlement, is still held by his descendants. Many Mohegans frequented this part of the town, clinging to it by virtue of Owaneco's claim to it as Mamosqueage. A hut on the high hills near Waldo's was long the residence of the Mooch family, kindred of Uncas and the royal line of the Mohegans.

The settlement made quite rapid progress. Among others who soon followed were Josiah Luce, Thomas Laselle, Robert Hebard and John Burnap. Luce and Laselle were of old Huguenot stock. Burnap came from Reading, Mass., purchasing a tract of land of Solomon Abbe, by Merrick's brook, April 13th, 1708.

The demand thus incited here caused valuations of real estate to rise considerably. A saw mill was already in operation on the brook, and in 1706 a highway was ordered to be laid out for the farmers of Scotland, above the mill-dam, for the convenience of getting on and off the bridge which was then about to be constructed, and thence it was to run to John Ormsbee's land. With the destruction of the forests and the accompanying decadence of the streams this mill site has long since been powerless for the purposes to which it was once appropriated. And the same may be said in regard to Wolf Pit brook, the privilege of which was granted to Josiah Palmer in 1706, "to set up a grist mill—he building the same within three years and ditching and damming there as he thinks needful on the commons, not to damnify particular men's rights."

In 1707 the town of Windham regarded its southeastern quarter as of sufficient importance to be allowed a burying ground, and at that time Samuel Palmer, George Lilly and William Backus were appointed to view the ground here and consult the people with regard to laying out a burying place in this locality.

The Scotland settlers still maintained their connection with the church at Windham Green, though their number was constantly increasing. George Lilly, in 1710, purchased land on both sides of Little river, which runs down along the eastern border but just outside the present limits of the town, and in 1714, John Robinson, a descendant of Elder John Robinson, of Leyden, removed to Scotland. The old Puritan stock was well represented in this locality. Descendants of Robinson, Brewster and Bradford, with French Huguenots and Scotch Presbyterians, were among its inhabitants. A pound had been erected and a school house was built, at what date we have not learned, and about these public institutions a straggling village grew up. Many sons of the first settlers of Windham established themselves here. Joseph and John Cary settled on Merrick's brook, on land given them by their father, Deacon Cary. Deacon Bingham's son Samuel settled on Merrick's brook, and Nathaniel on Beaver brook. Nathaniel, son of Joseph Huntington, occupied a farm on Merrick's brook, near the center of the settlement and became one of its most prominent citizens. The population was gathered mainly on the road to Canterbury and on Merrick's brook. Many of the Scotland settlers were members of the

Windham church and some were active and prominent men in the affairs of the town.

But the Scotland settlers soon began to feel a desire for church privileges nearer their homes than away over the hills several miles to Windham Green. At what time this feeling began to develop into open agitation we do not know, but it had gone so far in that direction that in February, 1726, the town took action so far as to consent by vote that when the public list of that section should reach in amount £12,000 the town would build a meeting-house in that section, and when they should desire to settle a minister the town would join with them in supporting two ministers and keeping the two meeting houses in order. In December, 1727, the Scotland people were allowed to employ a suitable person to preach to them during the winter, and this permission was kept up for several winters. But the Scotland people could not see the advantage to them of paying their proportionate part of supporting the ministry at Windham Green and then hiring a minister additional during a part of the year, at so much extra expense. Hence the question of society privileges was agitated, and after a spirited contest before the general assembly the petition was granted and a charter for a distinct society was given by the legislature in May, 1732. The bounds of the society were substantially the bounds of the present town. They began at the junction of Merrick's brook with the Shetucket, thence northerly to the southwest corner of the land of John Kingsley; thence to Beaver brook at John Fitch's dam; thence a straight line to Merrick's brook, at the crossing of the road from Windham Green to the Burnt Cedar swamp; thence north on the brook to the southwest corner of Canada Society; thence easterly by the south bound of that society, and southerly along the Canterbury line to the dividing line between Windham and Norwich, and westerly along the Norwich line to the mouth of Merrick's brook. This bound probably included less than one-third of the territory of Windham. The petitioners, in answer to whom the charter was granted, were Nathaniel Bingham, Jacob Burnap, Eleazer and Samuel Palmer, Joshua Luce, Daniel Meacham, Isaac Bingham, Samuel Hebard, Seth Palmer, Timothy Allen, Charles Mudie, Benjamin Case, John Waldo, David Ripley, Caleb Woodward, John Cary, Jonathan Silsby, Elisha Lilly, Jacob Lilly, Joshua Lasell, Nathaniel Huntington, Nathaniel Brewster, Nathaniel Rudd, Wilkinson Cook,

Carpenter Cook and Samuel Cook. The number of families in the society was about eighty, and the number of persons probably about four hundred. The list of estates reported amounted to £3,945.

The new society met to organize June 22d, 1732, at the house of Nathaniel Huntington. Edward Waldo was chosen moderator; John Manning, clerk; Peter Robinson, John Waldo and Edward Waldo, society committee. In September the society voted to employ a minister, and began eagerly to discuss the location of their prospective meeting house. It was then decided that the preaching services should be held at the house of Nathaniel Huntington. The importance of having the business well attended to and the magnitude of the undertaking as it appeared to those people is shown by the vote at that time that "Ensign Nathaniel Rudd, Mr. Samuel Manning, Lieutenant Peter Robinson, Sergeants Nathaniel Bingham and Edward Waldo, Mr. John Bass and Mr. John Cary, be a committee to provide us a minister to preach to us, and also to provide a place for him to diet in, and also to agree with him for what he shall have a day." The minister then employed by this ponderous committee was a Mr. Flagg.

After settling some disputes as to the law in regard to electing officers, the society unanimously set to work to locate and build a meeting house. The site decided upon was "a knoll, east side of Merrick's brook, south side of the road from Windham to Canterbury." Nathaniel Huntington, who owned the land, promptly made over a quarter of an acre for that purpose. June 25th, 1733, it was voted to build a house 43 by 33 feet and twenty feet high, the roof and sides to be covered with chestnut sawed shingles and clapboards. The work went bravely forward and by November 20th a society meeting was held in the house. Then the windows were glazed, and rough board seats provided, as well as a "conveniency for a minister to stand by to preach." Thus equipped the house was ready for service and the energies of the society were then devoted to employing a regular minister.

After several attempts, which from one cause or another proved abortive, the society succeeded in obtaining the services of a minister to be permanently located among them. This they found in the person of Ebenezer Devotion, son of Reverend Ebenezer Devotion of Suffield, a young man of good abilities,

pleasing address and unimpeachable orthodoxy, who had just completed his ministerial studies, having graduated from Yale College in 1732, and was just twenty-one years of age when called to this parish. On the 22d of October, 1735, a church was organized and Mr. Devotion ordained as its pastor, on a settlement of £300 and a salary of £140 a year, which was afterward increased by an additional thirty pounds. Eighty-nine members were dismissed from the First church of Windham to form the Scotland church. Edward Waldo and Nathaniel Bingham were chosen deacons.

These trying ordeals having been safely passed, the society now enjoyed a period of peaceful and harmonious prosperity reaching through many years. The interior of the meeting house was subject to many changes in its arrangements and seating, as was usual in those days, privileges being allowed individuals, singly or in groups, to erect pews for their own use and at their own expense. In this line one item is worthy of notice. In 1739 twelve young men had liberty to build a pew the length of the front gallery, dividing the same by a partition of wood, taking one half as their own seat and gallantly allowing the other half to as many young women.

We come now to the period when this church and society were greatly agitated, in common with others about them, by the great revival and the Separate movement, which occurred between the years 1740 and 1750. A very respectable part of the Scotland church became dissatisfied with the existing discipline and adopted decided Separate principles. Mr. Devotion, who was strongly attached to church order and the Saybrook Platform, wholly refused to grant them any concessions or liberty, whereupon they withdrew from the stated religious worship, and held separate meetings in private houses. Among the number were Joseph and Hannah Wood, Benjamin and Anne Cleveland, Zebulon and Hannah Hebard, Mrs. Samuel Manning, John Walden, Daniel Ross, Amos Kingsley, Peleg Brewster, Thomas and Henry Bass, and John, Sarah, Mary and Margaret Wilkinson. January 26th, 1746, these persons were cited to appear before the church court to "give their reasons for separating for a long time from the worship or ordinances which God had set up among them." Their answer in general was that the ministrations of Mr. Devotion were not satisfying to their souls like those of other preachers, like Lawyer Paine, Deacon Marsh and Solomon Paine, whom Mr.

Devotion refused to recognize. Nothing conciliatory resulting from the hearing and subsequent action, these people joined themselves into a Separate church. This was organized during the summer of 1746, and soon gained a very respectable position, receiving into its membership some of the leading families in the parish.

The Windham County Association of ministers held an investigation in February, 1747, and after hearing much testimony in regard to the Separatists, declared their action to be unscriptural, uncharitable and unchristian, and that the churches ought not to recognize them in a church capacity, but to labor with them as individuals to convert them from the error of their ways. The Scotland Separate church was, however, notwithstanding this meeting had been held in this town, unaffected by its judgments or proclamations, but continued to increase in numbers and influence. One of the deacons of the standing church lapsed to the Separatists among the rest. For a time they enjoyed the ministrations of their favorite ministers, the Paines and Elder Marsh. John Palmer, a descendant of one of the early Scotland settlers, exercised his gift of exhortation so freely that he was summarily arrested by the civil authority and lodged in jail at Hartford, where he was kept four months. This only increased his zeal, and after his release the church gave him further trial and eventually united in a call to its ministry. He was accordingly ordained May 17th, 1749, as pastor of the Separate church of Scotland.

Though deficient in education and somewhat rough in speech and manner, Mr. Palmer was a man of estimable character and sound piety, and under his guidance the Brunswick church, as this body was now called, maintained for many years a good standing in the community, comparatively free from those excesses and fanaticisms which marred so many of its contemporaries. No difficulty was found in supporting its worship by voluntary contributions. A church edifice was built about a mile southeast of Scotland village, and this was long known as the Brunswick meeting house. Mr. Devotion was never reconciled to this intrusion within his parochial limits, but true to his own name as he was to his cause, it is said that he was accustomed every Sunday morning to send his negro servant with a rescript to the Brunswick meeting house, forbidding Mr. Palmer or any unauthorized person to preach therein that day; a pro-

hibition which doubtless only served to increase the number of attendants there.

For many years after this Separate church was established its members were obliged to pay their proportion of taxes for the support of the ministry in the regular church of Scotland society. When they refused to comply with such demands their cattle or goods were taken by distraint or themselves were imprisoned in Windham jail. But on the prospect of having to pay rates toward the building of the new meeting house in 1773 they petitioned the assembly for relief, and that body gave a favorable response, granting them release from the burden of taxation to build the house in which they did not expect to worship. The names of those at that time identified with the Separatist church were Zacheus Waldo, Zebulon Hebard, Lemuel Bingham, Ebenezer Webb, John Palmer, Benjamin Cleveland, Joseph Allen, John Walden, Stephen Webb, Israel Hale, William Perkins, Joseph Allen, Jr., Jonathan Brewster, Ebenezer Bass, John Silsbury, Timothy Allen, Samuel Baker, Jr., Jedidiah Bingham, Henry Bass and Moses Cleveland.

Through the dark days of the revolution the Separate church held on to its existence, though probably weakening in numbers and activity by the labors of zealous Baptist itinerants in the neighborhood. Unlike many of this sect Elder Palmer had a respect for education and sent his son David to Dartmouth College, where he graduated in 1797. The Brunswick church did not long survive the loss of Elder Palmer and his fellow helper, Deacon Walden. Some members drifted away to the Baptists and Methodists. A final attempt was made in 1812 to maintain worship, but in 1813 the church was disbanded, at the final meeting May 24th, voting to join with the First church of Canterbury on conditions of being allowed certain privileges. June 11th they met at the Canterbury meeting house and part of their number joined the Canterbury church and part did not.

In reviewing the action of the society of the recognized Scotland church some things appear of interest worthy of mention, as illustrative of the customs of the time more than for the intrinsic historic importance of the events themselves. In 1747 it was decided to repair the meeting house. The vote decided, "to clabord the outside of our meeting house with oke clabbords, and polish the walls within with clay, sand and ashes, and plaster overhead with lime mortar." Among other liberties granted

to individuals for building pews, in 1752 seven young ladies were allowed to build a pew "in the sete behind the front seat in the woman's gallery, provided they build within a year and raise the pue no higher than the seat is on the men's side." But the young ladies disregarded the condition and so brought down upon themselves the following decree: "Never ye Less ye above-said have built said pue much higher than the order, and if they do not lower the same within one month from this time the society committee shall take said pue away."

Schools had already received some attention from the people of the society. The school house, however, was a matter of annoyance, and its location was unsteady. In 1755 it was voted that, "Whereas, the school house in the society standeth so near Samuel Silsby's dwelling house it much discommodes him—that we are willing that said Silsby should move the school house to any convenient place on the road it now stands on, provided he move it at his own charge and leave it in as good repair as it now is, and set it somewhere on the highway between where it now stands and Merrick's brook, or anywhere else where those inhabitants shall agree that send their children to school, and have the advice of Nathaniel Huntington where to set it." In 1774 the school house was again a source of trouble, this time from its proximity to the meeting house. Fearing it might give rise to conflagrations that might endanger the meeting house, it was moved to a suitable distance. In 1758 a committee was appointed to divide the society into proper school districts.

James Brewster was chosen clerk of the society in 1750, in place of John Manning, who had held the office for many years. Josiah Kingsley was chosen deacon of the church in 1752, and John Cary to the same office in 1754. Deacon Nathaniel Bingham, son of Deacon Thomas Bingham, of Windham, died in 1754, and his brother Samuel in 1760.

Reverend Ebenezer Devotion was held in high reputation as "a great divine, a pious man, an able politician, eminent for every kind of merit." After the passage of the stamp act, he was chosen to represent the town of Windham in the general assembly as the man most competent to advise in that great crisis. He died while yet in the prime of life, in July, 1771, being fifty-seven years of age, leaving a large family of sons and daughters.

The successor of Mr. Devotion in the pastoral office was Rev-

erend James Cogswell, then recently from Canterbury, who was here offered £60 for settlement, £80 salary, and "the liberty of getting his firewood on the lot the society had of James Manning." He was installed February 19th, 1772. November 9th of that year it was voted to build a new meeting house, the vote calling out 98 "yeas" and 20 "nays." It was agreed to give Mr. Elisha Lillie £750 for building the house. It was several years in course of construction. It was completed enough to be seated in December, 1778, and in the following May the work was formally accepted from the hands of Mr. Lillie, the contractor. The old building then being offered for sale at auction, brought seventeen pounds.

After the revolution the returned veterans engaged in the arts of peace. Besides many who engaged in farming and commercial business, Major John Keyes, of Ashford, who was appointed adjutant general of Connecticut militia in 1786, afterward removed his residence to Scotland village and established a tavern, which soon became a famous place of resort for the many old soldiers residing in this part of the town. The parish bore its part in the civil administration and was allowed the privilege of holding one-third of the allotted town meetings in its convenient meeting house. The parish aspired to the luxury of a bell in its church steeple, and the purchase and poising of this appendage excited the attention of the people as an event of unusual interest. On its way hither it met with mishaps which were repeated twice or more, by which it became cracked, and had to be returned several times for repairs. For several years the care of the bell seems to have occasioned much annoyance. In the meantime the subject of church music received much earnest attention, and a singing school was maintained under which so much progress was made that it was said the singing in this quiet country church was better than that in the city churches of Hartford. This church shared in the general religious declension which prevailed during the closing years of the last century. There were few accessions and many losses. Deacon John Cary died in 1788; Deacon John Baker in 1791. Some members were lost by emigration and some by removal to other churches. In the meantime earnest Baptists were holding meetings on Pudding hill, and making converts who joined some of the neighboring Baptist churches. Schools were maintained and catechised as the law required. The Cen-

tral school flourished for two seasons under the charge of a teacher who afterward became famous—William Eaton, the conqueror of Tripoli.

The latter years of the life of Reverend Mr. Cogswell were attended by an unhappy controversy between him and his people. Being too aged and infirm to perform the duties of his office acceptably, he removed to Hartford to live with his son, but still claimed a support from his parish, who were legally bound by the terms of his settlement as pastor to give him a support to the end of life, which claim he was obliged to press in the courts of law.

The third pastor of this church was Cornelius Adams, of Canterbury, who was ordained December 5th, 1805. The parish, taking care to avoid another case like that in which they were involved with Mr. Cogswell, secured the condition in the settlement that the pastoral contract could be terminated on six months' notice at any time when it should become unsatisfactory to either party. The bell now began again to make trouble. In 1804 the steeple was repaired and made stronger. The bell was re-cast. When it was being replaced in position a plank fell from the belfry deck, and struck Mr. Jeduthan Spencer on the head with such force that he died from the effects in a short time, and also broke the arm of Mr. Eleazer Huntington. The ministry of Mr. Adams was brought to an end by his death within a year after his installation. He was succeeded by Reverend Elijah G. Welles, of whose pastorate we have learned but little. The church was then in a feeble state, and it is probable that his maintenance was difficult. His successor was Reverend Jesse Fisher, a graduate of Harvard, who was ordained May 22d, 1811. Mr. Fisher had the satisfaction of seeing his church built up and strengthened, and the evil effects of long dissension gradually disappear. He remained here until his death in 1836. His successor was Reverend O. T. Whiton, who was dismissed after a four years' pastorate. A new meeting house, the present building, was erected in 1842. Thomas Tallman, of Middle Had-dam, was ordained and installed pastor March 20th, 1844. After a successful pastorate of about seventeen years he resigned in 1861. Reverend Luther H. Barber was installed October 22d, 1862, and remained until May 9th, 1869. Following that date the church had no settled pastor for about four years. During one year of that time Rufus S. Underwood was a stated supply.

and during the time of his ministry a revival occurred which gave to the church twenty-nine new members. Reverend Alva A. Hurd became acting pastor November 1st, 1873, and remained until the spring of 1881. He was the first to occupy the new parsonage, which was provided by the society in 1873. Reverend L. D. Place became acting pastor one year, beginning May 1st, 1884. Then followed a period of vacancy and temporary supplies until November 1st, 1886, when Reverend G. A. Bryan entered upon his labors as acting pastor. He still remains in that position. A neat and convenient chapel was purchased and fitted up adjoining the church in 1867. The present membership of the church is about one hundred and ten.

During the decade from 1840 to 1850 a flash of Universalist sentiment appears to have run through the churches in this part of Connecticut. A church of that order was organized in this neighborhood, and in 1843 a meeting house was built. This flourished fairly well for a few years under the ministrations of Reverend H. Slade, but its active life was short, and it has long since become a thing of the past.

Returning now to notice the growth of this town in the early part of this century we find a considerable degree of life and activity manifest here. Its farms and workshops were prospering. Stephen Webb carried on an extensive shoe manufactory in the north part of the parish. Thomas Coit, of Norwich, succeeded to the mercantile traffic carried on by Messrs. Ebenezer and Jonathan Devotion, offering the usual "variety of well-chosen goods," and receiving most kinds of country produce in payment. Doctor Dwight, in his observations about the towns of this locality, declared that everything about Scotland wore "the aspect of festivity, thrift, industry, sobriety and good order." A little later the mercantile establishment of the village fell into the hands of Philetus Perkins. Saw mills, a grist mill and fulling mill were maintained upon Merrick's brook. These were carried on by members of old families, the Devotions and the Waldos and others. A quarter century later showed but little if any advance. Scotland Parish was greatly burdened by excessive imposts and inconveniences brought upon it by Windham's growth and aspirations, and devoted much of its energies to efforts for separation. No special business enterprises were now being developed within its limits. The old saw and grist

mills were kept up, and brick making was carried on near the line between this and Windham parishes.

After repeated efforts for release from the inconveniences of being associated with Windham, Scotland at last received a town charter in 1857. Its first town meeting was held in the vestry of the Congregational church, on the morning of July 4th. Jephtha Green was chosen moderator. The occasion was celebrated by a pleasant social gathering in the afternoon, when patriotic and congratulatory addresses were made by Governor Cleveland, Reverend Mr. Tallman and others. The first officers of the town, which were elected on that day, were as follows: Benjamin Hovey, clerk, registrar and treasurer; John P. Gager, Jr., Zephaniah Palmer and Henry H. Cary, selectmen; Henry Webb, constable and collector; Simon Fuller and R. W. Waldo, grand jurors; William F. Palmer and Jonathan W. Maine, assessors; Simon Fuller, P. B. Fuller and Dwight Cary, board of relief; Zephaniah Palmer and P. B. Fuller, land surveyors; P. B. Fuller, C. N. Palmer, C. B. Brumley, H. H. Cary, Thomas Tallman and Zephaniah Palmer, board of education; C. B. Brumley, school treasurer; Z. Palmer, school visitor; and John P. Gager, Jr., acting selectman. The number of children then of school age—between the ages of four and sixteen—was 191; and the number of voters who cast their votes for governor that year was 135, of which 85 were in favor of Buckingham and 50 for Pratt. The justices of the peace appointed for that year were William Davison, Pearley B. Fuller and Zephaniah Palmer. The first representative to the state legislature was James Burnett, merchant.

Change of status made but little practical difference in local administration. A slight change was made in the west bound, by which a little more territory was included in the town than had been in the society. By this change the brick works and the old Robinson house were brought into this town. Since that time the town has pursued the even tenor of its way, with little to disturb the still waters of its social, religious or political life. Its growth in business activity and in population have hardly been sufficient to balance its losses. The number of children between the ages of four and sixteen thirty years after town organization, is 98, less than one-half what it was then. Property valuations, however, do not show disparagingly. The grand list now reaches \$267,423. Most of the mills on the streams have been abandoned, but grist and saw mills are still maintained by

F. W. Cunningham, John D. Moffitt and Eugene Kimball, while William F. Palmer carries on the only store in the village and also officiates as postmaster and notary public.

Youngest and smallest of Windham county towns, with no special business facilities, Scotland can hardly be expected to take a conspicuous position. Successive generations of young men have emigrated hence to expend their energies and enterprise in other fields.

Scotland is honored in the memory of illustrious sons. Hon. Samuel Huntington, one of the distinguished men of his day in the state, is mentioned elsewhere in this work; it would be repetition to speak of him in detail here. Daniel Waldo, the famous chaplain of Congress, was born here September 10th, 1762; drafted into the continental army in 1778; afterward became pastor of West Suffield, Cambridgeport and several other churches; served as chaplain of the United States House of Representatives in 1856 to 1858; died in Syracuse, N. Y., July 30th, 1864, aged 101 years, 10 months, 20 days. Samuel Waldo, a distinguished artist, was born in Scotland in 1783. He was incited to the study and practice of art by the example and instructions of Reverend Joseph Steward. Success in Litchfield enabled him to visit England, where he studied portrait painting in the studio of Benjamin West. He returned in 1809, and for fifty-three years pursued his art successfully in New York and Hartford, becoming one of the best art critics as well as artists of his day, and was very highly esteemed by a large circle of friends.

The principal attention of the people is directed toward agriculture, and some improvement may be seen in that direction in recent years. Among such improvements may be noticed the organization of a Grange. Shetucket Grange, as it is named, was organized with twenty-four charter members, June 10th, 1887. The ceremonies of organization and installation of officers, which took place on the same evening, were conducted by D. M. Master Tucker of Lebanon, assisted by D. K. Bowen of Woodstock and members of Little River Grange of Hampton. The first set of officers thus installed were as follows: A. E. Wel-den, worthy master; Mrs. E. P. Brown, lecturer; Caleb Anthony, secretary; A. M. Clark, Steward; A. H. Gallup, assistant steward; C. M. Smith, chaplain; J. Anthony, treasurer; R. T. Haskins, gate-keeper; Mrs. D. P. Walden, Pomona; Flora Gager, Ceres; Lillie Baldwin, Flora. With the introduction of various



R J Haskins

improvements and attractions in the arts of agriculture the tide which has now for many years been setting away from the rural sections of New England to the centers of population may turn and bring again to the beauties of these hills and valleys a people who shall enjoy their health giving and soul elevating atmosphere and influences. Like many other towns of its class, Scotland seems to be living mainly in pleasant dreams of retrospect. The main center of the town has by the roadside the old time tavern, but its hollow and vacant rooms, with their well-worn floors and soil marks of previous generations of active guests, only tell of the life that was once manifest here which stands in bold contrast with the quietness of the present. Surrounding its village green, which presents a pleasing landscape, stand the old tavern and a row of superannuated tradesmen's shops, a school, church, chapel, store and post office. Back of the church is a small burying ground in which rest the remains of some of the foremost families of the parish. Two granite monuments bear the family name of Fuller. One of these is erected to the memory of Josephine, wife of George Fuller, who died July 11th, 1870, at the age of a little more than thirty-four years. The other is a granite spire containing the names of David L. Fuller, born September 10th, 1787, died August 6th, 1872; Frank A. Fuller, born December 21st, 1839, died March 22d, 1867; Elizabeth K. Fuller, born April 4th, 1829, died July 27th, 1869; and three others. The spire is about fifteen feet high. The first mentioned monument is surmounted by a life-sized angel in marble.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

RUFUS THOMPSON HASKINS was born at Rochester, Mass., December 29th, 1839. He is a son of Charles H. and Almira Haskins, the former born at Middleborough, Mass., January 28th, 1816, and the latter at Rochester, Mass., April 16th, 1818. R. T. Haskins lived on a farm until he was 15 years of age, then went on a whaling voyage in the bark "Newton," Captain George Sherman, sailing from New Bedford. After a cruise of thirty-four months the vessel was stove in the ice in the Okhotsk sea, and the crew reached home on various vessels about ten months later. Not discouraged by his first experience Mr. Haskins shipped again, this time as boatsteerer on the ship "Onward," Captain W. H. Allen. After three seasons in the same sea where

the "Newton" was stove, the ship reached port with 6,700 barrels of oil. Mr. Haskins next went as mate on a British merchant vessel on a voyage to Europe. On reaching home he shipped as third mate on the ship "Onward" with the same captain with whom he made his previous whaling voyage. This voyage yielded 7,000 barrels of oil. After a few months at home Mr. Haskins shipped as mate of the same vessel on a voyage to the Arctic ocean, which yielded 5,500 barrels of oil. His next voyage was as mate of the ship "Contest." After 1,000 barrels of oil had been taken, the ship, with thirty-one others, was caught in the ice. All abandoned her, taking the small boats. The men cut and broke the ice for nearly twenty miles before reaching open water, and cruised forty miles further, when they were rescued and carried to the Sandwich islands. From there Mr. Haskins sailed to San Francisco and came home overland. His next voyage was in the ship "Jerry Pery" to the Arctic ocean. On this voyage they found the ship "Helen Snow" abandoned. Dividing the crew of the "Pery," Mr. Haskins took the ship in charge and after finishing the season in her, brought her to San Francisco.

In 1867 Mr. Haskins joined Social Harmony Lodge, No. 7, F. & A. M., of Wareham, Mass. When home from one of his voyages he married Mary Ellen Anthony, of Scotland, Conn., July 11th, 1867. In 1869 he bought the farm where he has resided since he retired from a seafaring life. In politics he has been an active republican, has held many town offices and in 1884 represented the town in the state legislature. His children are: Rufus C., born July 24th, 1871; Leander O., February 29th, 1876; Jessie A., July 13th, 1877; Flora M., November 26th, 1880, and Edith A., January 30th, 1884.

WILLIAM F. PALMER.—Vaniah Palmer, the grandfather of William F. Palmer, resided in Scotland, then the town of Windham. He married Cynthia Fitch, whose son John, born in Scotland on the 12th of March, 1795, in 1820 married Charlotte G. Bingham. Their children were: Emily C., William F., Henry W., Lewis C., Sanford K., John P. and Charlotte E.

William F. Palmer was born June 29th, 1824, in Scotland, and with the exception of seven years in Springfield, Massachusetts, has passed the whole of his life in his native town. After an elementary education received at the schools near his home, he engaged until the age of twenty-two in labor on the farm. He



William F. Palmer

was then for a brief time employed in teaming, and subsequently entered the service of the Hartford, New Haven & Springfield Railroad Company. But the scenes of his boyhood proving more attractive, he returned to Scotland and for awhile engaged in farming. Mr. Palmer, at a later date, in connection with a partner, embarked in mercantile ventures, and in 1882 purchased the entire business interest, which he now controls. In 1866 he was elected to represent his town in the state legislature, and in 1872 was appointed postmaster, which office he still holds. He also for many years held the office of justice of the peace, and has been since 1874 town treasurer and town clerk. He is a trustee of the Willimantic Savings Institute, and is frequently called upon to act as executor, trustee and administrator. He is a member of the First Congregational society of Scotland, and treasurer and clerk of the society. Mr. Palmer was married October 14th, 1850, to Susan B., daughter of Thomas Webb, of the same town. They have one daughter, Ella Brewer, the wife of James H. Johnson.

SAMUEL B. SPRAGUE.—Samuel and Ruhamah Borden Sprague were the grandparents of the subject of this biography. His father, William B. Sprague, was born in South Killingly, and some years later removed to the town of Scotland, then a part of the town of Windham. He married Hannah, daughter of Ebenezer Fuller, of Scotland. The children of this union who grew to mature years were: Samuel B., Hannah M. and James W.

Samuel Borden Sprague was born on the 15th of October, 1823, in South Killingly, and after a common school and an academic education spent some time as a teacher. Preferring, however, the active and healthful pursuits of a farmer, he located on the homestead farm, where he has since resided, his abilities having been chiefly directed in the line of agriculture. He has been more or less active in the arena of politics, and as a republican was in 1877 elected to the Connecticut legislature, serving meanwhile on the committee on roads and bridges. He has been for a long period chairman of the board of selectmen of his town, and at present fills the office of trial justice. His well known integrity and ability have caused his services often to be solicited for the offices of executor, administrator, and for kindred trusts. He is a member of the Congregational church of Scot-

land, and has at various times been superintendent of the Sabbath school.

Mr. Sprague was, on the 24th of November, 1847, married to Emma, daughter of Nathan Gallup, of Windham, whose death occurred March 28th, 1878. Their only child, William F., died at the age of four years. He was again married November 28th, 1878, to Lois G., daughter of Mason Burnham, of Scotland.



A. B. Sprague

CHAPTER XIX.

THE TOWN OF CHAPLIN.

General Description.—Settlement of the Region.—An Ecclesiastical Society Organized.—Town Privileges Obtained.—General Progress.—Manufactures.—Paper Mills, Lumber Mills, and Manufactories of Wheel-barrows, Plow-beams, Spools, Woolen Cloth, Boxes and Shingles.—Schools and Teachers.—The Church of Chewink Plains.—A Protestant Methodist Church.—Deacon Benjamin Chaplin.—The Congregational Church.—Its Successive Pastors.—Biographical Sketches.

CHAPLIN, one of the smallest towns of Windham county, lies in the southwestern part, on the western border and next north of the town of Windham. It is bounded on the north by Ashford and Eastford, on the east by Hampton, on the south by Scotland (for a short distance) and Windham, and on the west by Mansfield, in Tolland county. The surface is considerably hilly, and much of it is covered with forest growth which affords timber for building and other purposes. Much of the soil, however, is good, and agriculture may be successfully carried on. The New York & New England railroad runs across the southeast corner of the town, and affords communication at Goshen Station in the town of Hampton and about three miles from the village of Chaplin. The township has an area of about twenty square miles, being six miles long from north to south and a little more than three miles wide. The Natchaug river runs through the town, entering at the northeast corner and leaving at the southwest corner, receiving on its way Ames' brook from the east and Stone House brook from the west. The village is one of those quiet, homelike, mature villages, characteristic of the rural and agricultural sections of New England. A social and homogeneous character marks the inhabitants to a remarkable degree. The high moral tone pervading the people, and the peacefulness of the community and the long life of individuals, which are open facts here, afford valuable suggestions to those who would study the social elevation of humanity.

The northwest part of Hampton was for many years held mostly by non-residents. But few attempts were made at settlement in that section. The first permanent settler of whom we have any knowledge was Benjamin Chaplin, whose father, a deacon by the same name, lived in the southwest part of Pomfret. On arriving at his majority, he went into the wilderness, and for a while lived a solitary life here, in a clearing which he had made on the banks of the Natchaug. Here he engaged in making baskets and wooden trays. In 1747 he married Mary Ross, a widow, the daughter of Seth Paine, of Brooklyn. Not long after, he built a large and handsome mansion, still known as the old Chaplin house, where he reared a numerous family. Mrs. Chaplin equalled her husband in thrift and economy, and they soon accumulated property. Like his father-in-law, Mr. Chaplin was a skillful surveyor, and became very familiar with all the land in his vicinity, and often was able to buy large tracts at a small price. In 1756 Mr. Chaplin purchased of William and Martha Brattle, of Cambridge, for £1,647, seventeen hundred and sixty-five acres of land, mostly east of the Natchaug and crossing it in nine places, which, with other acquisitions, gave him a princely domain. Some eligible sites were sold to settlers from Windham and adjoining towns, but the greater part was retained in his own possession. He laid out plans, built houses and barns, and otherwise exercised his ownership and disposition to improve his estate. He was a man of strongly marked character, shrewd and far-seeing, a friend of mankind, the church and the state, and was highly respected throughout the range of his acquaintance. He was of a decidedly religious turn, and read much on subjects in that line. He attended church in South Mansfield, riding six miles on horseback over the rough path, with bread and cheese in his saddlebags for luncheon and a daughter on the pillion behind him to jump down and open the bars and gates on the way. In 1765 he united with the First church of Mansfield, and ten years afterward was chosen one of its deacons. Though his residence was in Mansfield, he owned much land in Hampton, and was actively interested in its affairs. His daughter Sarah married James Howard; Eunice was the wife of Zebediah Tracy, Esq., of Scotland Parish; Tamasin, the wife of Isaac Perkins, Esq., of Ashford; and Hannah, the wife of Reverend David Avery. His only son, Benjamin, a young man of much promise, died in

1789. He had been married to a granddaughter of President Edwards, and left three sons, Benjamin, Timothy and Jonathan Edwards. Deacon Chaplin died March 25th, 1795, in the seventy-sixth year of his age, leaving an estate valued at nearly £8,500, including over two thousand acres of land, four houses and eight barns. In his will he gave three hundred pounds as a permanent fund for the encouragement of Gospel preaching in the neighborhood of his homestead.

Chaplin was incorporated as an ecclesiastical society in October, 1809. It included residents of the western part of Hampton with some of Mansfield and Windham so situated that their convenience was enhanced by joining this society. William Perkins, of Ashford, was appointed to enroll the names of all within prescribed limits who should elect to become members of the new society and to act as its moderator at its first meeting, which was held December 4th, at the dwelling house of the late Benjamin Chaplin. The first members of the society thus enrolled were Israel, John, Thomas and Francis Clark, James Clark, senior and junior, Ebenezer Cary, Jared and Joseph Huntington, Joseph and Elisha Martin, Roswell Bill, Chester Storrs, Matthew Smith, Daniel, Nathaniel and Joseph Moseley, Rufus Butler, John Rindge, William Moulton, Elkanah Barton and Nathaniel Cutler. At its second meeting this society took a step in advance of the age in voting to admit a woman as a member of the body. This woman was Mrs. Lois Robbins, a widow who was training up a large family and successfully administering an encumbered estate. Further particulars of the history of this society and its management of church affairs will be given in connection with the church history of this town.

The need of a more distinctly civil organization was soon felt, and in May, 1822, the assembly granted town privileges to Chaplin. The bounds of the ecclesiastical and school societies were soon after made identical with those of the town. The first meeting of the town convened July 4th, 1822. Erastus Hovey was made moderator. Orin Witter was chosen town clerk and treasurer; John Ross, William Martin, Origen Bennett, Luther Ashley and Nehemiah Holt, selectmen; Abel Ross and James Utley, constables; James Moseley, Jr., Elisha Bill and Judson Metcalf, grand jurors; Enoch Pond, Darius Knight, Heman Clark and Isaiah Geer, tithingmen; Jonathan H. Ashley, sealer of weights and measures; Erastus Hough, Matthew Smith and

John Clark, fence-viewers. The population of Chaplin at that time was about eight hundred. The development of business enterprises was quickened by the town organization. Peter Lyon set up a paper mill in the south part of the town. Major Edward Eaton engaged in lumber operations and built new houses in Chaplin village. Boot making was carried on to a large extent. A tannery was actively maintained, and attempts were made to establish an iron foundry. The culture of silk received considerable attention, and palm leaf hats were successfully manufactured. The Natchaug affords considerable power for manufacturing purposes, but the remoteness from railroad was an obstacle against the development of manufacturing enterprises at a time when other localities were making rapid strides in that direction. Thus the manufacturing industry scarcely increased for half a century. A paper mill has been kept at work for many years. The manufacture of spindles and plow handles was established some years ago. Agriculture, however, is the leading pursuit, and silk culture has received some attention.

The paper mill in the south part of Chaplin was built by Peter Lyon, Esq. His father was one of the solid men of eastern Massachusetts. He afterward became a paper manufacturer at Newton Falls. He made by hand the paper used by the *Daily Sentinel*, *Weekly Galaxy* and the *Daily Courier*, when first printed. He was the foremost in establishing Meridian Lodge of Masons in Needham, of which he was for several years master. He died in Chaplin, November 18th, 1863, aged 87. He was buried in Milton, Mass., his native place. A few years before his death on the streets of Boston, he met Mr. Buckingham, publisher of the *Galaxy*, for whom he formerly made paper; they grasped each other by the hand, "What!" said Mr. Lyon, "*You* alive?" "Why," said Mr. Buckingham, "*Are you really* alive?" The meeting was such as old and generous hearted friends always have. About the year 1837 he purchased a tract of land of the late John Wells, in eastern Connecticut, making as his friends called it, a domestic paradise in the woods and erecting his mills on the Natchaug river in Chaplin. His sons for a time took charge of the paper mill, after which it came back into his hands. He afterward sold the mills to Mr. John Page, who carried on the business for a time, when they passed into the hands of Mr. John Dickey, then Green & Bathwick purchased and run

the mills until they were burned to the ground. Afterward they were rebuilt by Morey & Fuller, who also built the large reservoir near the line in Ashford. Again the mills were burned, when the Case Brothers of Manchester, rebuilt the mills, and for several years Mr. William Hodge, an experienced paper maker from Poquonock, acted as their superintendent. When he left, Mr. Frederick Case purchased the mills of his brothers, removed to Chaplin and carried on quite a successful business until he made another exchange with his brothers Willard and Wells, who continued the business until they sold to the present owners, Samuel A. and William N. Smith. The main building is 40 by 70, two floors, and machine room, 40 by 100, one floor. They employ from 15 to 20 hands and the annual product is about one thousand tons. The water power is excellent and usually sufficient, but when the water is low, they use also a steam engine of 90 horse power.

About one quarter of a mile below the old paper mills, was the old Howard saw and grist mill. A few years since, this mill was rebuilt and modified as a pulp manufactory. The original company consisted of Nettleton, Moore & Thompson. They were accustomed to make from forty to fifty hundred pounds of pulp per day. The mills were sold to Mr. Meloney, who carried on the pulp business until the mill was much injured by a high freshet of the Natchaug river. The privilege was then purchased by the Case Brothers, rebuilt and enlarged, and changed into a paper mill. The upright part is 40 by 60, three floors, machine room 44 by 70, one floor, with projections for storage, etc. The water power is estimated at about one hundred horse power. About two tons of paper per day is the product of this mill.

About half a mile below this mill are the Ross mills. The late Sherman Ross built this mill as a wheelbarrow manufactory. There are also a shop for turning spools from white birch, and a saw and grist mill. These mills are now owned by George Ross and his son Charles, who do quite a business in their saw and shingle mill, and in their grist mill. They buy grain by the car load and grind for the markets as well as for home customers. About three miles above the paper mills on the Natchaug river are the Griggs mills, formerly the Moseley mills. Here, for more than a hundred years, have been a saw and grist mill, generally doing a thriving business. The mill is located in the

northeast corner of the town. It was established first by Benjamin Chaplin. He sold it December 2d, 1771, to Nathaniel Moseley. It was an old mill then. The latter sold it in December, 1782, to Flavel Moseley and he to John Fuller, May 22d, 1823. After the death of the latter his administrators sold it to Royal Copeland, March 25th, 1829, and by him it was sold to Josiah C. Jackson, February 16th, 1830. He sold it to Jared Clark and Newel Allen, September 28th, 1833, and they sold it to David A. Griggs, the present owner, February 11th, 1837. For many years a good business in plough beam and plough handle making was carried on, and also the manufacture of wheelbarrows. In an additional shop, the late Nathan Griggs made spindles for the factories, doing a successful business until he was fatally injured in the establishment, and after his death the business was no longer carried on. Only the saw and grist mills are now in operation.

On the Stone House brook as it is called, the old clothiers' works of Kingsbury & Bingham were formerly located, and in the olden time, before woolen cloths were so largely manufactured in the woolen mills, a successful business was done at this place. When this business declined, Deacon Ephraim Kingsbury used the establishment for a box factory, and turning lathes, where he worked on both iron and wood. A saw mill here did a good business. Half a mile below was the Bennett saw mill, now owned by C. E. Griggs. The plough beam business has of late years been carried on at this mill. A mile above was the shingle mill of Mr. Jirah Backus, now unoccupied, and the mill-pond has been a fish-pond, of popular resort. Stone House brook, as good fishing ground, has been known even in some of the cities of the state.

The schools of Chaplin, select and district, have been in good repute. C. Edwin Griggs and Clark Griggs, both graduates of Amherst; Julian Griggs, of the scientific department of Yale College; Clinton J. Backus, of Amherst College; Edward F. Williams, of Williams College; Reverend George Soule, of Amherst; Reverend Roswell Snow, of Yale; Edgar S. Lincoln and Charles H. Williams, of Eastman's Business College, all went from Chaplin. Miss Catherine F. Griggs, Mary E. Williams, Edith A. Church, Nellie M. Griggs, Annie M. Griggs, Jennie E. Griggs, Hattie A. Griggs, Lena R. Church, Isadore P. Church, Delia M. Eaton and Lydia Ashley were all natives of this town and members of Mt.

Holyoke Seminary at South Hadley, Mass., all but one fitted to enter that institution at Chaplin Center school. Mr. Clark H. Griggs was in the army and rose to be head clerk in the patent office at Washington. Julian Griggs now occupies a good position as civil engineer, and Clinton J. Backus is principal of one of the schools of St. Paul, Minn. Among those natives of Chaplin who have reached distinction, may be mentioned Hon. Edwin Jones, a wealthy lawyer in Minneapolis, one of the directors of the American Board of Foreign Missions, and said to be the largest giver to benevolent objects of any member of the Congregational church in the country; Mr. George Griggs, a merchant in New York, and during the last years of his life connected with one of the largest insurance companies in the country; Mr. Wales Eaton, a large silk dealer, having an office in New York; and Mr. Charles Backus, a successful banker in Illinois. The late Major Edwin Eaton attained large wealth as a carpenter and dealer in timber. It is said that he built more than half the houses in Chaplin Center, several meeting houses in other towns, and for a time contracted for timber for the Spragues in building up their manufacturing villages.

The population of Chaplin, at the incorporation of the town, was about 900; the present population is 627. Chaplin furnished a good number of soldiers in the war of the rebellion and was ahead of her quota when the war closed, and the war debt is paid. In one battle three of her soldiers were killed; in fact, she lost heavily during the war. One of her selectmen at the time of enlistment died a prisoner.

During the war of the revolution a small Congregational church was constituted in what is now the southeast part of Chaplin, on what is called Chewink Plains, a locality of flat land which was much frequented by the little birds in whose honor the name was given. The original members of this early church were mostly from the Windham church, and it had only one pastor, Reverend John Storrs, a native of Mansfield, son of the minister in that town, and in the line of distinguished clergymen of the name. He was a faithful and useful man, but at his death in 1799 the church became extinct, thirteen of its members returning to the church in Windham. There remains now to mark the location of this original church a burying ground, which lies in the waste of wild land a little north of the New

England railroad crossing, on the road from Chaplin to Scotland. It covers about two acres, and the peacefulness of its retreat seems enhanced by the murmuring sighs of the breezes that pass through numerous white pine trees which occupy the ground. Many old graves are unmarked. The oldest dates discernible on the monumental slabs indicate the early years of this century. Many of the old name of Canada appear, and this name shows in later years the change to modern form as Kennedy. On a conspicuous brown stone slab we read: "Our Dear Brother, J. S. Colburn, Member of Co. H, 18 C. Vol., Died at Danville, Va., A Prisoner of War, Dec. 18, 1864, *Æ*. 20 yrs., 7 mo. 'Thou hast left us, Fare thee well.'" Other family names that appear on headstones are Smith, Hunt, Button, Allen, M'Coy, Dean, Blackman, Flint, Ashley, Kelley, Walcott, Upton, Bugbee, Colburn, Holt, Nichols, Lawton, Neff, Wyllys, Burrows and Martin.

At some time between 1840 and 1850, a small Protestant Methodist church was formed in the south part of the town, to which Elder Jones ministered, preaching in school houses and private dwellings. After his death this church also became extinct.

We have already said that the founder of settlement here was Deacon Benjamin Chaplin. His Christian character, beautifully manifested in his life, has been a subject for the admiration and emulation of many generations, and must continue to be until the wheels of Christian civilization turn backward. As Deacon Chaplin drew on toward the end of life, and thought how God had blessed him in things temporal as well as things spiritual, his pleasant home, his good children, filling places of influence, honor and usefulness, the thought pressed upon him, "How can I best serve my generation after I have passed to my home above?" Although almost or quite as many inhabitants occupied what is now the boundary of the town, yet few of them were in what is now the center of the town. On Tower hill, Bare hill, Natchaug, Chewink plains and Bedlam were found most of the people, yet all of them must go from two to five miles to find a place of public worship, and not one of these places was adapted to be a center for a place of worship. Near his residence must be the natural center, the place for a meeting house, to accommodate all parts of the new town, which was sure in time to be incorporated. He therefore made a will, characteristic of the man, and likely to carry out the purpose he had in mind.

He bequeathed the sum of three hundred pounds for the support of a learned orthodox ministry. If any of his heirs endeavored to prevent the carrying out of this purpose, and to make this part of his will inoperative, such person or persons were to be disinherited and to receive nothing from his estate. From the income of this permanent fund, a minister professing and preaching the doctrines of the Gospel, according as they are explained in the Westminster confession of faith, was to be in part supported. If the question arose whether any preacher did thus teach, it was to be decided by the ministers of the Windham County Association. An ecclesiastical society must be formed before January 1st, 1812, and religious services must be held within one mile and a quarter of his dwelling house. Regular preaching must be maintained to entitle the society to use the income from this fund, and by regular preaching was meant at least forty Sabbaths each year. This fund was enlarged by subscriptions from the people, by the sum of five hundred pounds, subject to the same conditions and limitations as that of Deacon Chaplin.

The ecclesiastical society was incorporated by the general assembly in October, 1809—"Voted, that the School House in Chaplin District be the place of public worship; that we set up steady preaching bearing date from the first Monday of December, 1809." A committee was appointed to supply the pulpit. It was found so difficult to agree upon the location of the meeting house to be built that it was voted to apply to the county court to settle the question. This vote was taken August 13th, 1810. A petition was sent to the general assembly for permission to raise by a lottery the sum of two thousand dollars for the purpose of building a meeting house, and four managers were nominated to act in this business. It does not seem that success attended this effort. Subscriptions in money, building materials and labor were raised for the building of the meeting house, and it was accepted as completed according to contract September 14th, 1815. It was not finished as it was intended eventually to be, but so that public worship could be held in it.

Neither pews, slips nor pulpit were provided, but the people went up with joy to the courts of the Lord, to worship Him in His own house. After a number of years a steeple was built upon the east end of the meeting house, a bell procured in 1837, the pews or slips were constructed, and a lofty pulpit placed for

the elevation of the minister. Thus they intended to have their pastors *settled over* the people. Many years after, one of the pastors expressed the earnest wish to have the pulpit brought down from its great altitude, that he might be *among* his people as one of them, saying when his Master wished him to come up to heaven he hoped he should be ready, but while he was upon earth he did not wish to be placed somewhere between earth and heaven. The pulpit was brought down as he wished, and yet it was too high for some of his successors, and it has been brought down several feet lower, and now it has only the elevation of the modern pulpit. A number of years since, the people feeling the need of a lecture room or vestry, moved the meeting house about fifty feet on the hillside, and constructed a very commodious vestry under it, where the evening meetings and other religious and social gatherings are accommodated. Thus the same meeting house has been occupied during the entire history of the church, except for a short time when worship was held in the Center school house.

The Congregational church was organized by an ecclesiastical council, May 31st, 1810, consisting of fifteen members. Present on the council: Reverend Nathan Williams, D. D., of Tolland, moderator; Reverend Moses C. Welch, of North Mansfield, scribe; and Reverend Hollis Sampson, of Eastford, with their delegates. The creed and covenant adopted by the church were approved by the council.

The church has had ten deacons: Ebenezer Cary, Nathaniel Moseley, Elkanah Barton, Roger Clark, Darius Knight, Jared Clark, Ephraim Kingsbury, Otis Whiton, John W. Griggs and William Martin. All have finished their work upon earth except Deacons Griggs and Martin, who are now acting deacons.

The church has had six pastors and several stated supplies. Reverend David Avery, Reverend Nathan Grosvenor and Reverend John R. Freeman are the only stated supplies who have served for any considerable time. Reverend David Avery labored at the time of the formation of the church, was one of the original members, married Deacon Chaplin's daughter Hannah, preached in Chaplin and in Bennington, Vt., and died while laboring in Virginia February 15th, 1817. Reverend Nathan Grosvenor made his home in Chaplin during the closing years of his life, died in Chaplin, and was buried in Pomfret in the ancestral cemetery. Reverend John R. Freeman, after leaving

Chaplin, preached in Andover, Conn., Barkhampsted and Westford, where he died December 6th, 1876. Reverend Francis Williams, of Chaplin, preached his funeral sermon. He was buried in the beautiful cemetery in Westford.

Reverend Jared Andrus, a native of Bolton, Conn., was installed December 27th, 1820, being the first of the six regular pastors. He was dismissed May 11th, 1830. He was born May 6th, 1784, and died November 12th, 1832, having been installed over the Congregational church in North Madison, Conn., in the preceding June. He was buried in the cemetery at North Madison. Reverend Lent S. Hough was ordained in Chaplin August 17th, 1831, and was dismissed December 20th, 1836. After leaving Chaplin, Mr. Hough preached in North Woodstock 1837-41; North Madison, 1842-45; Bethel, 1845-46; Middletown, 1847-63; Wolcott, 1863-69; Salem, 1869-70; Niantic, 1870-77; and died in Poquonock September 22d, 1879, aged seventy-six.

Reverend Erastus Dickinson, born in Plainfield, Mass., April 1st, 1807, ordained pastor of the Congregational church in Canton, Mass., 1835, was installed the third pastor in Chaplin October 25th, 1837, and was dismissed January 2d, 1849. Mr. Dickinson preached, after leaving Chaplin, in Marshfield, Mass., Colchester, Conn., and in Sudbury, Mass. He was dismissed on account of failing health, and only preached occasionally afterward. He removed to Bricksburg, now Lakewood, N. J., where he resided about twenty years. He died September 4th, 1888, aged eighty-one.

Reverend Merrick Knight, born in Northampton, Mass., January 15th, 1817, was ordained in Chaplin as the fourth pastor May 1st, 1850, and dismissed December 31st, 1852. Mr. Knight afterward preached in Stafford, Hebron, North Coventry, Broadbrook, Rocky Hill, Torrington, New Hartford, South and East Hartland, where he is still laboring in the work of the ministry.

Reverend Joseph W. Backus, the fifth pastor, a native of Franklin, Conn., was ordained in Blackstone, Mass., installed in Chaplin January 23d, 1856, and dismissed January 1st, 1858. Mr. Backus afterward preached in Leominster, Mass., Lowell, Mass., Rockville, Thomaston and Plainville, where he still labors in the ministry.

REVEREND FRANCIS WILLIAMS, the sixth pastor, was born in Ashfield, Franklin county, Mass., January 2d, 1814. He

was the fourth son of Captain Israel and Lavina Joy Williams. The family consisted of nine sons and two daughters. He prepared for college at Sanderson Academy in Ashfield, Amherst Academy and the academy at Shelburne Falls. He entered Williams College in 1834 and graduated in the class of 1838, speaking an oration at commencement. He was one of the prize speakers in his junior year, and had also a junior oration. Immediately after graduation he entered the Theological Seminary at East Windsor Hill, Conn., where he graduated in August, 1841. During his educational course, he taught in Cossackie, N.Y., two terms in Hawley, Mass., and during the winter of his senior year he was principal of the Sanderson Academy in his native town, and one winter during his seminary course he was principal of the academy in Windsor, Conn. He was licensed to preach at the close of the middle year in the seminary, by the Franklin County Association at Coleraine, Mass. Nearly six months before he closed his seminary course, he received a call to settle in Eastford, Conn., and accepted it, on condition that he should complete his course at the seminary, supply the pulpit by exchanges, or by sending some of his classmates, whenever he wished; his salary then commenced, and he has been under a regular salary *continuously* from that day to the present. Reverend Doctor Tyler, of East Windsor Hill, preached his ordination sermon. General Nathaniel Lyon, of Eastford, graduated at West Point and came to his home at about the same time, and henceforth until Lyon's death, they became personal friends; Mr. Williams offering the prayer at his funeral. After a little more than ten years, Mr. Williams accepted a call to settle in Bloomfield, Conn. Reverend Doctor Milton Badger, of New York, preached the sermon of installation. In 1858, Mr. Williams accepted a call to settle in Chaplin, where he has remained for about thirty-two years. Professor Edward A. Lawrence, D. D., of East Windsor Hill, preached the installation sermon. His health has been good almost during his entire ministry. Since his graduation at the Theological seminary, in 1841, he has been but twice absent from the annual anniversary of the seminary, and then he was detained to attend funerals. For more than thirty years he has been a trustee in the Hartford Theological Seminary, only the Hon. Newton Case, of Hartford, being his senior in office. On several occasions he has been a member of the



Francis Williams.

examining committee in that institution. For several years he has been a director of the Connecticut Home Missionary Society and a trustee of the Ministers' Fund, and has never been absent from one of the meetings. For more than forty years he has been acting school visitor in the different towns where he has resided. In 1876 he was elected as a member of the legislature and was a member of the committee on temperance.

On the 22d of October, 1841, he married Miss Mahala R. Badger, daughter of Enoch Badger, of Springfield, Mass. She was sister of Reverend Norman Badger, a classmate of Stanton, the great war secretary, a professor at Gambia College, O., president of Shelby College, Ky., and died while chaplain in the army. She was also a niece of Doctor Milton Badger, long a distinguished secretary of the Home Missionary Society. They have had five children, four sons and one daughter. Two sons died in infancy. Edward F. graduated at Williams College in the class of 1868, taught for a short time, when failing health compelled him to return to his home in Chaplin, where he died October 6th, 1869, aged 24. Charles H. graduated at Eastman's Business College at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., became a member of Haight's Engineer Corps, took a severe cold while at Rondout, N. Y., surveying the Hudson River railroad, had severe hemorrhage of the throat, and died in Chaplin, December 19th, 1874, at the age of 26. Mary Elizabeth, their only daughter, graduated at Mt. Holyoke Seminary in the class of 1871, taught select school after graduation, married Reverend William H. Phipps, October 10th, 1872. He has been pastor in East Woodstock, Poquonock, and Prospect, Conn., where he has been pastor for about eleven years, and where he still continues his labors.

Seven sermons preached by Mr. Williams have been printed in pamphlet form, and several in part or in full in newspapers.

1. Temperance Funeral Sermon of Francis Squires. At his own request preached, Text 2d Kings, 10, 9: "Responsible Agents of Intemperance." In *American Temperance Preacher* No. 4.

2. Funeral of Benjamin Bosworth, Esq., of Eastford.

3. Funeral of Reverend Asa King, pastor in Westminster, Conn.

4. Funeral of Mrs. Asa King, preached in Westminster.
5. Funeral of two soldiers from Chaplin, killed in the battle of Winchester, Earl Ashley and Anson A. Fenton, preached in Chaplin. Text, John 18, 36.
6. New Year's Sermon, January 5th, 1863, in Chaplin.
7. New Year's Sermon, January 3d, 1874, in Chaplin.

No ecclesiastical council has ever been called to adjust any church or ministerial difficulties, and no minister placed over this people has been accused of, or tried for any scandal or heresy while pastor here or elsewhere. It is a temperance town. No saloon, tavern or dancing hall is known to exist; and probably a dancing school or hall has not been known in the town in the last fifty years, if ever; certainly not in the last thirty years. Many noted revivals have taken place, and the church has been in a vigorous state for a rural community.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

DAVID A. GRIGGS.—Nathan Griggs, the great-grandfather of David A. Griggs, married Elizabeth Sharpe and resided in Pomfret. John Griggs, son of Nathan, married Ruth Ashley and resided in Coventry and Hampton, Connecticut. His son Daniel was born in Coventry, March 24th, 1779. He married Elizabeth Hewitt, daughter of Robert and Abigail Hewitt of Hampton. Robert Hewitt was a patriot of the revolutionary war. Daniel Griggs resided in Hampton, Brooklyn, Pomfret and Chaplin, where he died June 26th, 1862. He was a farmer and large owner of real estate. He had a family of eleven children, viz.: Elizabeth H., married Ephraim W. Day; Sophia S., married David G. Corey; Daniel A., David A., Nathan, George M., Lucy P., Appleton M., John W., Edward G. and C. Edwin; of whom four sons and two daughters survive and reside in Chaplin.

David A. Griggs was born June 23d, 1811, in Hampton, and during his minority lived in Hampton, Brooklyn and Pomfret (Abington Society). At the age of seventeen he united with the Congregational church in the latter place. At the age of twenty he became a resident of Chaplin, and soon after removed his church relation to the Congregational church in that town. From that time he taught school in winter and labored on his father's farm in summer until the year 1837, when he purchased a saw mill, grist mill and shingle mill which he still holds. The farm



David A. Griggs



Edgar D. Lincoln

which is his present home he acquired in 1842, the residence having been erected in 1844. In politics Mr. Griggs was a whig, and has been a republican since the organization of that party. In 1841 he was chosen a justice of peace, which office he held until 1881, when age set a limit to his office. He was elected a representative to the Connecticut legislature in 1854. He has been frequently chosen to the position of selectman of the town; was especially earnest in his support of the government during the late war, and zealous in his efforts to furnish the quota of his town in that eventful crisis.

Mr. Griggs was married March 1st, 1837, to Damaris C., daughter of Chester Storrs, of Chaplin. Their children are Clark Hewitt, Catharine Ferdon and two that died in infancy. Mrs. Griggs died in 1854 and in 1855 he married Sarah L., daughter of Phares Barrows, of Mansfield; who had one child that died in infancy. His son Clark Hewitt was born January 27th, 1839, and graduated from Amherst College in 1863. He entered the service during the late war as hospital steward, and after undergoing a varied experience was discharged on account of illness, when he engaged in teaching. He afterward entered the patent office in Washington as clerk, and by his ability won rapid promotion. At the date of his death, November 11th, 1872, he filled the responsible position of principal examiner in that bureau. He married Mrs. S. S. Morris, a widow with two children, Emma and Ballard, and had three daughters, Kate P., Dora and Elise. Kate is the wife of William Robertson, of Washington, D. C.; Dora married Ernest I. Atwood, of Springfield, Mass., and Elise died in childhood. Catharine Ferdon married Edgar S. Lincoln, of Chaplin, and has two daughters, Lucy G. and Mabel S.

EDGAR S. LINCOLN.—Jonah Lincoln, the great-grandfather of Edgar S. Lincoln, was in his day a man of prominence in his town. He was for a long time judge of probate for what are now the towns of Hampton, Windham and Chaplin, and held various other offices of trust. He was the father of Dan Lincoln, who in 1812 married Mehitable Flint. Among their eight children was a son Jared, born September 8th, 1823, in Windham, from whence he removed to Scotland and later to Chaplin. He was in early life a teacher, and afterward engaged in mercantile pursuits in Chaplin. He has for years been prominent in public affairs, represented his town in the state legislature and held various town offices. He married Joanna, daughter of Darius

Spafford, of Scotland. Their two children are Edgar S. and Clinton D., the latter having died in infancy.

Edgar S. Lincoln was born August 2d, 1847, in Scotland, where, upon the farm his youthful years were spent. Removing at the age of ten to Chaplin, he pursued his studies until the age of sixteen, and then entered Eastman's Commercial College at Poughkeepsie. After graduating he taught school several terms and finally entered his father's store in Chaplin as clerk. In 1871 he purchased the business which has since been successfully and profitably managed by him.

Mr. Lincoln was on the 8th of January, 1868, married to Miss Catherine F., daughter of David A. Griggs of the same town. They have two daughters, Lucy G. and Mabel S. Mr. Lincoln is a republican in his political affiliations. He has studiously avoided all tenders of office, the only exceptions being the acceptance of the position of probate judge and his election to the state legislature in 1880, both of which came to him unsought. He has taken no active part in the political contests of the day, finding his interests to center more directly in the field of business enterprise. He is a member of the First Congregational church of Chaplin and has been for ten years superintendent of the Sunday school.

WILLIAM ROSS.—The subject of this biography was the son of Elnathan Ross, who was born June 15th, 1772, and married Olive Storrs, whose birth occurred December 7th, 1774. The children of this marriage were eleven in number, as follows: Roxana, born in 1796; Harriet, in 1797; Ebenezer Storrs, in 1798; Olive, in 1800; Schuyler, in 1801; Earl, in 1803; Lydia Storrs, in 1805; Almyra, in 1806; William, November 24th, 1807; Caroline, in 1810; and Austin, in 1812. William, the fourth son in order of birth, was a native of Chaplin, where the chief part of his life was passed. He received no other advantages than those afforded by the schools of that early day in the town of his birth. When six years of age he went to live with his uncle, Abel Ross, in Chaplin, living with him till he was twenty-one years old. He soon after went to live in Ashford with General Palmer, with whom he lived two years.

In the spring of 1832, he married Miranda, daughter of John Hamilton Grant, of Ashford, a revolutionary soldier. The next day after his marriage he returned to Chaplin, having purchased the Avery farm, where he resided until his death.



William Cross

This farm is now the property of his only son William. Mr. Ross was in his political principles a staunch whig and later a republican. He gave some attention to the affairs connected with his town and county, held the offices of selectman and assessor, and was in 1846 elected to the state legislature. He was an earnest and exemplary member of the Congregational church and a liberal supporter of the gospel. The death of Mr. Ross occurred on the 7th of August, 1885, and that of Mrs. Ross, May 22d, 1886.

CHAPTER XX.

THE TOWN OF PLAINFIELD.

Description.—Statistics.—Settlement and Settlers.—The Town Organized.—Conflicting Land Claims.—The Gospel Ministry.—Division of Lands.—Indian War.—Settlement of Land Disputes.—Progress of the Settlement.—An Epidemic.—The Separate Movement.—French Prisoners of War.—Town Officers, 1765.—Facilities of Commerce.—Old Tavern.—The Poor and the Oppressed.—Emigration.—During the Revolution.—Revival of Business Enterprises.—Increase of Manufacturing.—Highways and Bridges.—The Ecclesiastical Society and Church.—Congregational Church of Plainfield Street.—The “September Gale.”—The Separate Church.—Quaker Meeting House.

THE township of Plainfield lies in the southeastern part of the county, adjoining Griswold and Voluntown in the county of New London. It is about nine miles long from north to south and four to five miles wide. It has Canterbury on the west, also Brooklyn on the northwest, Killingly on the north, and Sterling on the east. The Quinebaug river forms, most of the way, the western boundary, and receives from this town the waters of branches, the Moosup and Mill rivers, which afford sites for a number of manufacturing establishments. The town is traversed by about twenty miles of railroad, the Norwich & Worcester line running through it lengthwise, and the Providence Division of the New York & New England railroad running diagonally across it. Beautiful fertile plains stretching northeast and southwest between the rugged hills, early attracted the attention of settlers and land speculators, and these fertile plains gave name to the locality and to the town. Some attention is given to agriculture, but the great industrial interest of the town is manufacturing. Several factory villages have grown up within its borders.

The town was settled in 1689. It was named and incidentally recognized as a town as early as October, 1700. It then included the territory of Canterbury. A division of territory into two ecclesiastical societies by a line following the Quinebaug most of the way was effected in October, 1702. The Indian name of

the locality was Pantoosuck. The population of the town at different periods has been as follows: 1756, 1,800; 1775, 1,562; 1800, 1,619; 1840, 2,383; 1870, 4,521; 1880, 4,021. The grand list of the town was in 1775, £14,216; 1845, \$29,266.53; 1888, \$1,735,640.

The territory of this town was a part of the Quinebaug country, the purchase of which from the Indians and something of its settlement having been already given in another chapter will not be repeated here. In October, 1697, the general court ordered that the people inhabiting along the Quinebaug should be a part of New London county. The settlers on the east side of the river at the time of the town charter in 1699 were Isaac Shepard, Richard Pellet, Benjamin Rood, John Fellows, Samuel Shepard, John Spalding, Edward Spalding, James Kingsbury, Thomas Pierce, Thomas Harris, Matthias Button, Joseph Spalding, Jacob Warren, Nathaniel Jewell and Timothy Pierce. The area covered by the charter was "ten miles east and west and eight miles north and south, abutting southerly on Preston and Norwich bounds and westerly on Windham bounds, provided it doth not prejudice any former grant of townships." The charter granted the "powers and privileges of a township, provided it doth not prejudice any particular person's property."

The inhabitants of the Quinebaug plantation met to organize town government May 31st, 1699. Officers were chosen as follows: James Deane, town clerk; Jacob Warren, Joseph Spalding, Stephen Hall, William Johnson, Samuel Adams, selectmen; John Fellows, constable; Thomas Williams, surveyor. After electing town officers, the first vote was "To give the Rev. Mr. Coit a call for one quarter of a year for ten pounds." The invitation was accepted, and services were held during the summer, alternating between the east and west sides of the Quinebaug. The minister saw a lack of unity in the people, many of the settlers having little regard for religious matters, and refused to settle as pastor, but was retained as supply from quarter to quarter for some time.

Then followed a long controversy in regard to the conflicting claims of John Winthrop, Major Fitch, and the inhabitants of the town under the charter. This controversy lasted several years before a final settlement was reached, and greatly impeded the progress of the settlement of the town.

In 1701 the minister's salary, Mr. Coit being employed as be-

fore, was raised to twenty pounds a year in money and thirty pounds in grain, one-third of the grain to be rye, and the valuations on different grains to be fixed at two shillings for corn, three shillings for rye, and four shillings for wheat, per bushel. Town meetings were held alternately east and west of the Quinebaug, at Isaac Shepard's on the east side and Obadiah Johnson's on the west side. In 1702 a pound was built on each side of the river. Nathaniel Jewell was appointed pound keeper on the east side and Samuel Adams on the west side. Thomas Williams, Edward Spalding and John Fellows were surveyors for the east side, and Richard Adams and Thomas Brooks on the west side. A committee was appointed to have the inspection of Cedar swamp, which was then held in common, and they were empowered to seize any timber they might find being illegally appropriated therefrom. A meeting house was built on the east side of the river, on Black hill, which was convenient to a crossing place on the river. This first meeting house was begun in 1702, and completed so as to be accepted by the town in January, 1703. Meanwhile the town was divided into two ecclesiastical societies, the west society being relieved from taxation for this meeting house, but joining in support of minister until they were organized and had a minister by themselves. This meeting house was a rude affair—a rough frame covered with boards, and furnished with a temporary floor and temporary seats. In December, 1703, it was voted "To have the meeting house floored and a body of seats and a pulpit made, all to be done decently and with as much speed as may be, the ceiling to extend at present only to the girths." This order was probably soon carried into execution. In addition to what had been previously offered Mr. Coit, he was now promised equal privileges with other land owners in the purchase made of Owaneco for the benefit of the inhabitants.

The division of Plainfield territory into equal and regular allotments, and its distribution among such inhabitants as fulfilled the required conditions, were accomplished in 1704; the recipients throwing up their previous purchases into the common stock and each receiving an allotment with rights in future divisions proportionate to his interest in the common proprietorship. A broad strip of land adjoining the Quinebaug, extending from the north side of Moosup river to the Cedar swamp, was reserved as a general field, the great plain for corn planting, for

the use of all the inhabitants. Twenty-four proprietors received shares in this allotment, of one hundred acres each, which was completed in February, 1704. These proprietors were: Samuel Shepard, John Smith, Benjamin Smith, John Fellows, Ebenezer Harris, William Douglas, Thomas Stevens, Sr., Thomas Pierce, James Kingsbury, Edward Yeomans, Joshua Whitney, Stephen Hall, John Spalding, Edward Spalding, Benjamin Palmer, Nathaniel Jewell, Thomas Stevens, Jr., Matthias Button, Jacob Warren, Timothy Pierce, Joseph Parkhurst, Thomas Williams, James Deane and Joseph Spalding. To these twenty-four proprietors others were soon added, the town having ordered forty lots of the same size, so as to meet the probable demand. A number of the inhabitants were at first reluctant to resign their lands, but afterward came into the arrangement. Two or three individuals never did relinquish their individual ownership, and consequently had no share in the common proprietorship. New inhabitants who joined the settlement were granted an allotment on payment of three pounds into the town treasury.

The Indian war of 1704 subjected Plainfield to new restrictions and outlays. With other frontier towns, it was not to be deserted by any of its inhabitants; guard houses and scouts were to be maintained, equipped, and supplied with ammunition; a train band was formed, with Thomas Williams for ensign and Samuel Howe for sergeant. Guards were stationed about the meeting house on Sunday, and watch houses were maintained in exposed parts of the town. Great pains were taken to propitiate the favor of the Quinebaugs, who continued as ever peaceable and friendly.

In the midst of all these distracting conditions the town looked well to the progress of ecclesiastical matters. The interior of the meeting house was completed, and the pulpit placed on the south side of the room. Mr. Coit accepted the pastorate and was ordained early in January, 1705, at which time a church was organized consisting of ten male members. Its first deacons were Jacob Warren and William Douglas. The history of the church will be reviewed by itself further on, consequently notice of its progress will be omitted in this connection. We shall notice now the general progress of the town and its settlement and growth.

In 1705 it was voted that all the land except the "General Field" should be laid out into five equal parts. The proper care

of the corn field called for frequent enactments. In April, 1706, the town voted "That there shall no cows, cattle or horses be suffered to go in the General Field, at liberty, from the first of April to the fourth of October, upon the penalty of six-pence a head, and if any cattle go upon the grain the owners to pay five-pence per head to the owners of the grain as they shall be found in."

A final attempt to settle the land title dispute between Major Fitch and Governor Winthrop was made in 1706. It was agreed at length that the Winthrops should give up all claim to Quinebaug lands and in place thereof should receive undisputed title to one thousand acres each in the northern part of Plainfield and Canterbury. This settlement was confirmed by the interchange of quit-claims in October, 1706. At the same time the assembly granted to the proprietors and inhabitants of Plainfield a patent, confirming to them the lands in their town. Henceforward divisions of land in small parcels, as the proprietors thought desirable, were made from time to time.

Now that Plainfield had come into full possession of her territory she was deemed competent to bear her part of the public charges. The list of estates presented in October, 1707, amounted to £1,265. The free-holders of the town then numbered about fifty. John Fellows was sent as the first representative to the general court in May, 1708. Thomas Williams was now lieutenant, and Timothy Pierce, ensign, of the train band. Yearly increase in the town is shown by the fact that in 1708 the "grand list" amounted to £1,890, and the male inhabitants were fifty-five. In 1709 James Hilliard received a grant of several acres of land north of Moosup to encourage him to maintain a corn mill. Bounties were offered for killing blackbirds, a penny a head provided they were killed before the 15th of May; also sixpence a head for crows, twopence a "tail" for rattlesnakes, and ten shillings a head for wolves. In 1708 a pound was ordered, "in the senter of the town, near the meeting house." A rate was then levied to pay for "the pound, stox and bords for meeting house." The meeting house was put in order in 1710, and it was voted that every householder in town should give to the Widow Samans "one peck of Indian corn a year in consideration for her to sweep the meeting house; so long as she doth it, the corne to be carried to her." It was also agreed "That the place which has been for several years improved by the inhabitants for the

burial of the dead shall abide and remain for that use," and a committee was appointed to designate the quantity and provide a way to get to it. The same committee were directed to appoint a place for an Indian burial ground. This Indian burying ground, which was urgently needed by the rapid decay of the Quinebaugs, was situated in the eastern part of the town, in a place where it is said chiefs and sagamores and many previous generations of the tribe had been deposited. For several years during the early part of the last century this town was engaged in many disputes in regard to lands adjoining. Efforts were made to secure additional land by enlarging the boundaries, first on the north side, then on the west side and then on the east side. But all these efforts were fruitless, as was also the attempt to deprive individuals who had bought lands of claimants holding the field previous to the town charter. The Plainfield proprietors at that period seemed to have a decided ambition to possess more land, but the tide of destiny seemed in no wise favorable to the gratification of that ambition. The difficulties with Canterbury were not removed, even when the question of fee was settled in Plainfield's favor, and both towns continued the contest over the part of Canterbury included between the Quinebaug river and the line which started at the center of the island of Peagscomsuck and ran a quarter of a mile east and then in a straight line south to the south bounds of the town. The contest over this parcel of ground lasted for many years and developed many instances of lawlessness. Committees were frequently appointed "to see persons that pull down or demolish Canterbury fence," and numerous petitions vainly urged the re-statement and settlement of the boundary line. The management of the General Field was a matter of endless trouble and vexation. Its fencing was maintained with great labor and difficulty, and its proper care and clearing necessitated the employment of from sixteen to twenty-three "field drivers," a public town office instituted about 1720. These land quarrels somewhat retarded the growth and prosperity of the town, and developed much recklessness and lawlessness among its inhabitants. Reports of many disorders and irregularities are found in the records of the New London county courts. In 1725 Plainfield was visited by a "very distressing sickness and great mortality," so that the people could not get sufficient help among themselves to attend the sick, but were obliged to rely upon other towns for aid.

About twenty persons died in the town within a few months, including some of its first and leading citizens, viz.: John Hall, Samuel Shepard, James Deane, Benjamin Palmer, Matthias Button, Ephraim Wheeler, Philip Bump and Samuel Howe. The Aborigines were now rapidly passing away, not so much from disease as from their change of habits, and especially from the excessive use of liquor, from which it seemed impossible to restrain them.

The Separate movement in Plainfield drew away from the standing church a number of followers, but the breach was not as wide, nor the opposition between the two religious factions as bitter as it was in some towns. The Separatists, who had built a church and were supporting the Gospel themselves, in their own way, objected strongly to paying additional taxes for the support of the standing minister, as the law required them to do. At a town meeting, April 7th, 1760, it was voted to have two distinct societies. A committee was appointed to present the case to the assembly and ask the approval of that body. The assembly granted the request, dividing the town into two societies, not by geographical lines but by ecclesiastical preferences of the people, both societies occupying the same territory, the First to have two-thirds and the Second one-third of the ministerial rate of the town. The adjustment of ecclesiastical matters by the town seemed to occupy so much attention about this period that but little consideration was given to schools, roads and other public improvements.

In 1756 certain French prisoners of war were billeted upon the town. These were some of the neutral French inhabitants of Acadia, who had been torn from their homes and native country after the conquest of Nova Scotia by the English, and were now distributed among the towns of New England. Forty-three of these unhappy Acadians were assigned to Windham county by act of assembly, but Plainfield appears to have been the only town that officially and publicly made provision for them. By such records loads of wood were allowed to Frenchmen; money was paid for going to Norwich for Frenchmen's beef, for doctoring the "Neutral French," and for keeping Pierre Meron's cow. Thus we see that whatever their sufferings elsewhere, in Plainfield they were not uncared for.

At the town meeting in 1765, Elisha Paine was moderator. The following officers were elected: Isaac Coit, James Brad-

ford, James Howe, Joseph Eaton, Elisha Paine, selectmen; Major Ezekiel Pierce, town clerk; John Pierce, Elisha Paine, Lieutenant John Douglas, Doctor Robinson, Azariah Spalding, Jedidiah Spalding, Ebenezer Kingsbury, Stephen Warren, William Cady, Timothy Parkhurst, highway surveyors; Reuben Shepard, David Shepard, D. Perkins, Nathaniel Deane, Simeon Burgess, listers; Captains Eaton and Coit, fence viewers; William Park and Azariah Spalding, leather sealers; William Robinson and Joshua Dunlap, grand jurors; Samuel Hall, Joseph Spalding, Philip Spalding and Simon Shepard, tithing men; Hezekiah Spalding, sealer of weights and measures; Captain Cady, toller and brander of horses. The engrossing subject of this time was the adjusting of ecclesiastical affairs. The majority of the town adhered to the Separate church, while by law the two-thirds of ministerial rates belonged to the First church. The remnant of the latter had not sufficient vitality to supply their church with a minister. The Separate church was a respectable and orderly body, differing little from the orthodox churches of the time except in opposing the support of the ministry by taxation. An effort was made in 1766 to unite the two societies. The town voted that the old town meeting house should be used, that being larger and more convenient for the people to reach, and that Mr. Miller, the Separatist minister, should preach in it. This arrangement was unsatisfactory to a few who clung to the First church and distinctively opposed the Separatists, thus shutting themselves out from the house of worship. But a conciliatory settlement of difficulties was effected in 1769, by which the town was again united in its worship in the old church, certain orthodox forms being observed, while the ministerial tax levy, which was so objectionable to the Separatists, was forever abolished and church expenses met by voluntary contributions.

In 1763 a project was set on foot for the improvement of the Quinebaug river from Danielson's Falls to Norwich, by digging it out. It was estimated that such improvement could be made for four hundred pounds, and the assembly was petitioned for authority to operate a lottery in behalf of the scheme, but the request was not granted, and so the improvement scheme was abandoned. In the summer of 1768 a weekly stage-coach was run over the road from Providence to Norwich through this town. A spacious tavern house for the accommodation of travelers over

this road was built and opened in Plainfield village, by Captain Eaton, which became a very noted and popular resort. Taverns were also kept in other parts of the town by Thomas Stevens, Israel Underwood and others.

The old Eaton house or tavern has historic honors connected with it. At different times it had Washington and Lafayette for its guests. It stands on the thoroughfare mentioned and is now kept by David K. Douglas. On the front stoop stands an antique chair, in which, tradition says, Lafayette sat and wrote a letter. The editor of this History takes the liberty here to quote from his own note book the following paragraph, *verbatim et literatim*.

"On the front stoop of the old Douglass or Eaton house stands the historic chair. I am writing these notes on the same arm on which it is said Lafayette wrote a letter. It is an antiquated chair, the back and side arms of which are formed of swelled rounds. On the right arm is an oval board about 1 ft. wide and 2 ft. long, forming a very convenient writing desk. The old house and all its surroundings are wonderfully suggestive of the customs of a generation long since passed away. Massive elms of a century's growth shade the airy lawn and green and street. The swinging tavern sign of a former period still hangs out upon the highway."

In 1771 the town voted to provide a house for the poor and a proper overseer. The few Indians at that time left in the town were properly cared for by the town authorities or benevolent individuals. The provision made by Mr. Joshua Whitney for his negro servants at his decease in 1761 shows the conscientious regard with which some good men of that day fulfilled the responsibility of ownership. Not only did he make Sandy, Cæsar and Judith, with their children, *absolutely free*, but bequeathed to each household six acres of land, stock and farming tools; gave to one his "oldest little Bible," and to another several good books; enjoined Sandy to take care of Bess, his wife, and give her a decent burial; and directed Cæsar and Judith "to see that their children were in no ways left to perish."

The great exodus to the new countries took from Plainfield some valued citizens. A number of respectable families joined the first emigrants to Oblong and Nine Partners. Major Ezekiel Pierce and Captain Simon Spalding were prominent among the bold men who took possession of Wyoming. Elisha Paine, so active in professional and public affairs, removed in 1767 to

Lebanon, New Hampshire. The township of Sharon, Vermont, was purchased and settled by a Plainfield colony. Isaac Marsh, Willard Shepard and others went on in advance, selected land, built huts, sowed grass and prepared for the main body of immigrants. William, son of Captain John Douglas, though but a lad of sixteen, served valiantly in the French war, and after the return of peace took command of a merchant ship sailing between New Haven and the West Indies, making his residence in Northford. These losses were in some degree made up by occasional new settlers. Timothy Lester, of Shepard hill, and Isaac Knight, of Black hill, were among its acquisitions. John Aplin, an Englishman, who had gained a handsome estate by the practice of law in Providence, removed hither about 1766. John Pierce succeeded to the position of town clerk for a few years, and was succeeded by William Robinson in 1772.

During the trying revolutionary period, Plainfield maintained its character for patriotism and constancy. In the summer of 1774 the town, by its vote, expressed its willingness to contribute to the help of Boston, then suffering in the common cause. A committee was appointed to receive subscriptions for that purpose, which committee consisted of Captain Joseph Eaton, James Bradford, Robert Kinsman, Andrew Backus, Abraham Shepard, Ebenezer Robinson, Joshua Dunlap, Perry Clark and Curtis Spalding. A committee of correspondence was also appointed, which was composed of James Bradford, Isaac Coit, Major John Douglas, Doctor Elisha Perkins and William Robinson. In 1775 Plainfield approved of the methods proposed by congress for resisting the oppressive acts of parliament, and pledged a strict adherence to them. The town also voted, with but one dissenting voice, "That we will not in future purchase for ourselves or families any East India tea until the port of Boston is opened, and until the unreasonable Acts of the British Parliament are repealed." In 1777 Plainfield encouraged enlistments by voting that the families of those who should enlist for three years or during the war should be supplied with the common necessities of life at the price stated by the general assembly, and also offered a bounty of \$30 above that offered by the state. During that year Captain Daniel Clark, of Plainfield, was killed in battle at Saratoga, September 19th, and the town also lost its minister, Reverend John Fuller, who died in the service as a chaplain in the army. The women of this town were not to be left in the

shade of others in their acts of devotion to the common cause. They engaged in making thousands of cartridges with which to replenish the military stores at their depot. The following list of men who were killed or died in the service, from Plainfield, has been preserved:

"Samuel Gary, Roxbury; Roswell Spaulding, Asa Chapman, 1775; William Dunlap, 1776; John Kingsbury, New York-ward, 1777; Samuel Cole, Zerniah Shurtleff, New York-ward, 1776; four negroes by sickness; William Farnham, captivity; Captain Daniel Clark, Paul Adams, killed at Stillwater, Sept. 19, 1777; Asa Kingsbury's son, killed at Fort Mifflin, nigh Philadelphia; Dr. Nathaniel Spalding, died at Halifax a prisoner, last of 1777; Dr. Phinehas Parkhurst, surgeon of brig *Resistance*, died at Portland, May, 1778; Daniel Parish died at Newport a prisoner; Samuel Spalding at Martinique after being wounded; Enos Tew, New York, captivity; Dr. Ebenezer Robinson, Jr., at New York, prisoner, July, 1779."

After the revolution Plainfield resumed, with other towns, the business of a community and time of peace. Agriculture and other industrial arts were promoted and a degree of prosperity was soon acquired. The selectmen in 1801 were directed to provide a suitable and convenient house for the reception of the poor. What provision was made we are not informed, but later on, in 1832, the house formerly belonging to Amos Witter was established for a work-house and house of correction. Military matters excited some attention. In 1799 the town voted to exempt from certain taxation all non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates who should equip themselves as to arms, clothing and accoutrements, and do military duty. Abel Andrus was at this time lieutenant colonel of the Twenty-first Regiment; Shubael Hutchins, first major; Reverend Joel Benedict, chaplain; Sessions Lester, quartermaster; George Middleton, paymaster; Doctor Johnson, of Westminster, surgeon; Daniel Gordon, surgeon's mate; Frederick Andrus, Aaron Crary, Samuel Douglas and Asa Burgess, captains of companies in the light infantry; Thomas and Daniel Wheeler and John Gordon, lieutenants and ensigns; Doctor Josiah Fuller, surgeon's mate of the cavalry regiment.

The easy communication with Providence and Norwich, the stages now running daily to and from, stimulated traffic and agricultural enterprise. Captains Lester, Dunlap and others gave

much attention to wool growing and stock raising. Luther Smith, John and William Douglas and William Olmstead engaged in trade. George Middleton opened a harness shop, making a specialty of manufacturing pocket-books and portmanteaus of leather. Doctor Daniel Gordon kept an apothecary's shop. Potash works, tanning and hat manufacturing were carried on in the valleys east and south of the village. A post office, the third office established in Windham county, was opened here in 1797 by Captain Ebenezer Eaton, whose popular stage tavern maintained its former reputation. Nathan Angell, of Providence, purchased of Doctor Welles, in 1777, a fine farm on the Moosup, with large mansion house, store house, cheese house, milk house, young orchard, and various conveniences. Much other land was purchased by Mr. Angell, who ran saw and grist mills and carried on extensive farming operations as well. At a later period the town favored manufacturing industries by repealing its former regulations for the protection of fishing interests in the Quinebaug, thus allowing the water privileges to be utilized. It also took into consideration the canal proposed from tide water to Worcester, and gave expressions of confidence in its tendency to benefit the agricultural, commercial and manufacturing interests of the town, and requested its representatives to further the same.

During the early years of the present century, manufacturing interests began to develop in Plainfield, and through their influence the town has maintained its position and growth with a healthy degree of progress. About the year 1807 several manufacturing companies embarked in the enterprise of establishing cotton spinning upon the streams of this town. The American Cotton Manufacturing Company was composed of Thomas Rhodes of Providence, Peter B. Remington of Warwick, Messrs. Holden & Lawton of Rehoboth, and Obed Brown, Dyer Ames and others of Sterling. This company secured a privilege "near Ransom Perkins' fulling mill on Quandunk River." The Plainfield Union Manufacturing Company was organized for the purpose of carrying on the manufacture of cotton, and bought valuable privileges and land on the Moosup. This company was composed of Rufus Waterman, S. G. Arnold, Joseph S. Martin, David and Joseph Anthony, of Providence; Peter Cushman, of North Providence; David King, of Newport; and Anthony Bradford, Henry Dow, John Dunlap, Walter Palmer, Christo-

pher Deane, Jonathan Gallup, Joseph Parkhurst, Edward Hill, John Lester, Jeremiah Kinsman, James Gordon, Jr., Nathaniel Medbury, James Goff, John Freeman, Elias Deane and Edward Clark, of Plainfield; and Calvin Hibbard and Lemuel Dorrance, of Sterling. Joseph K. Angell, with Nathan Burgess, Humphrey Almy and other non-residents, arranged to occupy the privilege long owned by Nathan Angell, under the name of the Moosup Manufacturing Company. The Plainfield Union Company was ready for work in 1809, and the others within a year or two from that time. The Andrus Factory Company, composed of Abel and Benjamin Andrus, Thomas and Andrew Gibbs, Levi Robinson and Joseph Hutchins, of Plainfield; Charles Townsend, of Norwich; Titus Adams, John Baldwin and Joseph Farnham, of Canterbury, began operations in 1811. They bought land in Plainfield and Canterbury, on the brook south of the grist mill, and put up a small mill, thus beginning the settlement which has since been known as Packer-ville. Adjoining residents in both towns were much interested in this manufacturing experiment, and freely gave their aid in clearing up land and digging the cellar. Woolen factories were also set in motion in the town by Darius Lawton, of Newport, and Joseph Eaton. Carding machines and fulling mills were run by John Kennedy and others. Mr. John Lester and Doctor Fuller engaged largely in wool raising. The period of depression in the manufacturing industry which followed the war of 1812 occasioned much embarrassment in Plainfield. Several companies were obliged to suspend operations, and many changes took place. The Moosup Company lost its factory by fire, and the company was dissolved. The Central Manufacturing Company in 1827 passed into the hands of Richard and Arnold Fenner, of Cumberland, and Holden Borden, of Smithfield. Buildings, machinery, privileges of land and water, occupied in woolen manufacture by Joseph Eaton, Darius Lawton and company, in 1826 fell into the hands of a Rhode Island Quaker, William Almy. A large new factory building was erected the following year, improved machinery introduced, tenement houses built, adjoining land purchased and brought under cultivation, and soon one of the largest woolen manufactories in Connecticut was under full headway. Another smaller factory, eastward on the Moosup, was built and run by Joseph S. Gladding. The Union Factory, owned mostly in Plainfield,

was also flourishing, Henry A. Rogers acting as its agent in Providence. Four little manufacturing villages, known as Almyville, Unionville, Centreville and Packerville, were thus growing up in the town. All were managed by good men, ready to promote order and improvement. The first was made the charge of Sampson Almy, nephew of its chief proprietor. A small settlement also grew up around Kennedy's mill, near the mouth of the Moosup.

Public improvements in the way of traveling facilities were imperative and the demand was promptly met by the early settlers of the town. In 1705 the town directed a committee to lay out leading ways into the General Field and a way to Canterbury. A road was also marked out from the mill which had been built on Mill brook to the north part of the town. A highway six rods wide was laid out from the Preston line to the north bounds of the town, with two crossings at Moosup's river. A highway was laid out from this road, through the General Field, between John Spalding's and Thomas Pierce's and "so over the brook on the west side of Moosup's hill to Moosup's river and so down the river." The people felt the need of more convenient highways and bridges over the Quinebaug, fording places being at first used, but this practice was dangerous and sometimes impossible when the river ran high. The town was too young and unsettled to cope with the task of bridge building, but a bridge was built, probably by private contributions, in 1709. By direction of the assembly this town was required to lay out a road through its territory to meet the road which Rhode Island had ordered to be laid out from Providence to this town. The enactment was made in October, 1712. The assembly directed the selectmen of Plainfield to continue the road eastward beyond the town bounds to the point where it was to meet the road from Rhode Island. This part of the road through territory as yet unoccupied by any town was to be paid for by the government. In crossing this town the road ran through the lands of Joshua Whitney, Benjamin Spalding, Nathaniel Jewell, Daniel Lawrence, John Hall and John Smith, all of whom gave the right of way free of charge. The road was laid out four rods wide, and in some parts of Egunk hill this was increased to eight rods for the convenience of loaded carts. The road was completed and opened for use in 1714, the colony paying the cost of a bridge over the Moosup which lay on the road just beyond the east bounds of

the town. The bridge which had been built over the Quinebaug was carried away by a freshet after it had been there but a few years. Following this, Samuel Shepard, who lived on the public road near a convenient place for crossing, provided a ferry boat large enough to carry a horse and a man over. In order to compensate him for the outlay he had made, the assembly in May, 1772, allowed him "to keep said ferry for the space of five years next coming; and the fees thereof are stated to be fourpence for horse and man." No other public ferry was allowed between the towns, and Shepard was to keep suitable boats for the purpose and attend to its service.

The following petition tells so much of its own story, and also gives so much of incidental information concerning the river and the enterprise of bridging it, that we insert it entire:

"To the general assembly sitting in Hartford. May 9, 1728. The petition of the subscribers sheweth to your Honors, the many attempts that have been made by many of the inhabitants of the towns of Plainfield and Canterbury for the making a good and sufficient cart-bridge over the river Quinebaug, between said towns; it being so extraordinarily difficult and hazardous, for near half the year almost every year, and many travelers have escaped of their lives to admiration. The same river can't be paralleled in this Colony. It descends near fifty or sixty miles, out of the wilderness, and many other rivers entering into it, cause it to be extremely furious and hazardous. And also the road through said towns, over said river, being as great as almost any road in the Government, for travelers. And now your petitioners, with the encouragement of divers persons (£98 £s.) have assumed to build a good cart-bridge, twenty-seven feet high from the bottom of said river—which is four feet higher than any flood known these thirty years—and sixteen and a half rods long; have carefully kept account of the cost, beside trouble which is great (cost amounting to £424), and ask for a grant of ungranted lands."

The assembly ordered, "That said bridge be kept a toll-bridge for ten years, receiving for each man, horse and load, fourpence; single man, twopence; each horse and all neat cattle, twopence per head; sheep and swine, two shillings per score; always provided, that those who have contributed toward said bridge be free till reimbursed what they have paid." Two years later, on account of the great expense incurred in building this bridge,

it was further resolved, "That no person shall keep any boat or ferry on said Quinebaug river for the transportation of travelers within one mile of said bridge, on the penalty of the law."

A bridge over Moosup river, by Kingsbury's mill, was built by Samuel Spalding in 1729. In 1737 a committee was appointed to act in conjunction with Canterbury in rebuilding the broken down bridge between the two towns. Canterbury preferring to build a new one rather than repair the damaged one, Plainfield ordered a new road laid out to reach the new site, which was nearly opposite to Captain Butts' place. William Deane was granted permission to make a dam across Moosup river about 1716, for the purpose of setting up mills near his house. A bridge over this stream on the road to Deane's house and mill was built by the town in 1740.

In 1767 the bridge over the Quinebaug was again swept away by a freshet. Widow Williams saved twenty of the planks, by heroic efforts, and the town voted her a reward for the action. The bridge was at once rebuilt and men appointed to have the care of it and cut away ice when it formed upon the abutments. This bridge being situated on a great thoroughfare of inter-colonial travel, was at that time a very important one. Special orders relative to the renewal and maintenance of this road were from time to time made by the governments of Connecticut and Rhode Island. A road laid out from this highway to Butts' bridge accommodated Norwich travel. In 1784 the town voted to join with Brooklyn in building a bridge over the Quinebaug at Parkhurst's fordway. The work was delayed several years, but was accomplished in 1790. In 1788 the town joined Canterbury in rebuilding Nevins' bridge, "with three stone pillars in the river and suitable timber and planks for the upper works."

Turnpike companies began to come into existence about the close of the last century. In 1795 the "New London and Windham County Society for establishing a turnpike road from Norwich to Rhode Island line, direct through Norwich, Lisbon, Preston, Plainfield and Sterling," was incorporated. A toll-gate was allowed in Sterling, and another "within half a mile of Plainfield meeting house." The old traveled country road from Plainfield meeting house westward to Hartford was turned over to the Windham Turnpike Company in 1799, and liberty granted to erect a toll-gate near the dividing line between Plainfield and Canterbury. General James Gordon was a member of several

turnpike companies and served as turnpike commissioner of the state.

Highway districts were remodelled in 1808. The record locates them as—No. 1, Southwest; No. 2, Middle District, with three bridges, including bridge over west turnpike by tan vats; No. 3, North meeting house, begins at the Great Gate; No. 4, Green Hollow, extending north to Killingly line on the road to Elder Cole's meeting house; No. 5, Shepard Hill; No. 6, Moosup, extends north by Hartshorn's mills; No. 7, Black Hill, includes Nevins' and Cutler's bridges; No. 8, Pond Hill, extending to Sterling line; No. 8, Snake Meadow, north to Killingly line; No. 10, Mill Road; No. 11, Goshen; No. 12, Walnut Hill; No. 13, Kinne Road; No. 14, Howe Hill; No. 15, Dow Road; No. 16, Spring Hill; Nos. 17 and 18, East and West Flat Rock. Roads were laid out near Union Factory, and from the Andrus Factory over Butts' bridge, but a road was refused from the latter factory to Plainfield village on the ground that there was no house on the way and never would be. In 1818 a committee was appointed to join with Canterbury in a conference about building a bridge between the two towns, the selectmen meanwhile being authorized to establish a means of crossing by a boat. They were also called upon to join with Brooklyn in providing for bridge repairs between the two towns. Bridges over Moosup river were also replaced.

We have already seen that the people of this town gave early and earnest attention to establishing a ministry and the worship of God in their midst. November 13th, 1699, thirty-eight persons signed an agreement to pay their proportion toward the support of the ministry. Twenty-six of these men resided east of the Quinebaug, and twelve of them on the west. A meeting house was built, so far as to be ready for occupancy by January, 1703. This house, which was supplied with a temporary floor and seats, was built on the summit of Black hill. In 1704 permanent floor, pews and pulpit were added. In the early part of January, 1705, a church was organized and Mr. Coit was ordained as its pastor. In 1708, Mr. Coit having married a wife, Miss Experience Wheeler, of Stonington, his salary was increased to £60 a year, which was to be raised in "grain and provision pay," but if any chose to pay in money they were to have the benefit of an abatement of one-third their rate. Between the years 1717 and 1720 a new meeting house was built. The size of this was forty by fifty feet on the ground and twenty feet high. Its

location was for a long time a matter of contention, different claims being urged by different parties, even to appeals to the assembly to reverse the decision of the town vote. The idea of placing it on the country road that "goes from the south end of the town" was generally agreed to, but various votes and claims were promulgated as to more definite location. Once it was voted, "That it shall stand on the hill, north of Blodget's." Again it was voted that it should stand "east and by south from Blodget's house." A month later, however, the town declared that it should stand "a few rods north of the house where Blodget dwells." Notwithstanding many objections were urged to the indefiniteness of the relative positions of Blodget's and the meeting house, the latter finally settled down to a location "near Blodget's," and about half a mile north of the site of the present Congregational church in Plainfield, and was completed and ready for occupancy in September, 1720. The orderly character of the young people who attended divine worship in those politico-ecclesiastical times is not flattered by the fact that a man was stationed in the gallery to watch the young people below lest they should do damage to the house, "by opening the windows or anywise damnifying the glass; and if any (him or her), did profane the Sabbath by laughing or behaving unseemly, he should call him or her by name and so reprove them therefor."

Mr. Coit remained in the pastorate until compelled by advancing age and infirmities to resign, and was dismissed March 16th, 1748, having been serving his people, either as supply or pastor, forty-nine years. During the last few years of his work it was necessary for the society to employ assistants a part of the time. He died in Plainfield July 1st, 1750, at a ripe old age.

The great revival of 1741-43 in Plainfield was followed by division. A minority were dissatisfied with the customs of the church, and withdrew and organized a church according to the Cambridge platform. Thomas Stevens, father and son, James Marsh and Joseph Spalding were active in this movement, which was accomplished in 1746. A very pleasing feature of the revival in Plainfield was its effect upon the remaining Aborigines. These docile and tractable Quinebaugs were greatly impressed by the vivid presentation of religious truths, and according to a contemporary there was wrought among them "the most evident reformation that hath appeared amongst any peo-

ple whatever in these latter times, for they are not only filled with knowledge of ye way of salvation, and express the same to admiration, but are so reformed in their ways of living as to abstain from drinking to excess, which it was utterly impossible to bring them to any other way, and have their religious meetings and sacrament administered to them by ministers of their own nation."

David Rowland, a graduate of Yale College in 1743, having been duly called by the town and church, was ordained and settled over this church March 17th, 1748. After being pastor of this church thirteen years he was dismissed April 23d, 1761, and removed hence to Providence. The pay of Mr. Rowland was £700 for settlement and £400 annual salary, and his firewood. The prices at which "provision pay" was to be received in making up the salary were: corn, 12s. per bushel; rye, 18s.; wheat, 24s.; oats, 8s.; beef, 1s. per pound; pork, 2s. per pound. Notwithstanding the fact that the Separatist faction, with the non-church faction, made a majority in the town who were opposed to Mr. Rowland, his call had been legally made at a meeting when many of his opponents happened to be absent, and now the town was obliged to carry out the contract, however unsatisfactory its terms to them. An appeal to the courts was annually necessary to compel the people to pay their ministerial rates.

The division and opposition of sentiment and action which had for several years marked the history of this town in regard to its ecclesiastical affairs, were happily terminated by a union of the two religious factions and the ordination of Reverend John Fuller as pastor of the church in Plainfield February 3d, 1769. He had been preaching for the Separate church of Bean hill, Norwich, and some concessions being made on both sides he became acceptable to both Standard and Separate factions of Plainfield. After a pastorate here of eight years and eight months, he died October 3d, 1777. In the latter part of 1775, when the Eighth regiment of Connecticut was formed for service, he became its chaplain, and doubtless contracted disease in the service of his country which ended his days. The legend on his tombstone on Burial hill is as follows: "John Fuller, after watching for the souls of his people as those who must give account, fell asleep, Oct. 3, 1777, *Æ*. 55. Following this there was no settled pastor for several years. The old church became poor and was inconvenient. Occasional services were had and the brick

school house was used. Different ones were called, but no one accepted. A Mr. Upson preached five months in 1778, a Mr. Judson a while in 1779, and Mr. Solomon Morgan nine months in 1782. A new meeting house occupying the site of the present one, was built in 1784, and on its completion Reverend Joel Benedict, who had been pastor of the church at Newent, was installed over the flock December 22d, 1784. Under his influence and instructions, the party lines that had so long existed in the church were gradually obliterated. The radical element was drawn to the Baptists and Methodists, and the First church of Plainfield resumed its old position among the churches of the county, though not accepting consociation. It had so far conceded to the ecclesiastic constitution of the state as to consent in 1799 to the formal organization of a religious society. Reverend Joel Benedict attained the position of one of the prominent pastors of this church, and from outside he received the title of D. D., an unusual honor in his day. In the old town burying ground we read this record of him: "The good man needs no eulogy: his memorial is in heaven. The Rev'd Joel Benedict, D. D., Born at Salem, State of New York, January, 1745, Died at Plainfield, Feb. 13, 1816." In the old village street still stands the parsonage which he occupied. It is now occupied by Mr. Theodore Wing, proprietor of Wing's medicines. In front of the house stands a mammoth elm, which is said to be the largest tree of the kind in the county. The trunk is about fourteen feet in circumference. The pastorate of Mr. Benedict extended through a period of more than thirty-one years.

A terrible hurricane, which has ever since been known as "the September Gale," swept over this part of the country with great violence, damaging and destroying many buildings and uprooting fruit and forest trees. It is said that spray from the ocean, thirty miles away, was dashed upon the houses here like sheets of rain before the blast. This occurred in September, 1815. The meeting house of this church was demolished by the tempest. In 1816 the present stone church was erected, the design of its projectors evidently being to raise a structure that would not be so easily thrown down. The house was at first furnished with galleries on three sides, but in 1851 these were removed and the rooms for church services arranged as they are at the present time, with a large audience room above and a vestry below.

Orin Fowler, a graduate of Yale, in the class of 1815, was installed pastor of this church in February, 1820, and dismissed in January, 1831. He removed hence to Fall River, Mass., and died September 3d, 1852, aged 61 years. He was succeeded here by Samuel Rockwell, who was installed pastor of this church April 10th, 1832, and dismissed April 16th, 1841, and died at New Britain, December 25th, 1880, aged seventy-eight years. He was a graduate of Yale College and Seminary. Andrew Dunning, a graduate of Bowdoin College and Bangor Seminary, was installed pastor of this church May 24th, 1842, and dismissed January 26th, 1847. He died in Thompson March 26th, 1872, aged fifty-seven years. His successor was Henry Robinson, of Yale College and Andover Seminary, who was installed here April 14th, 1847. After a pastorate of nine years he was dismissed April 10th, 1856. He died in Guilford September 14th, 1878, aged ninety years. William A. Benedict became acting pastor in September, 1857, and resigned in March, 1863. He was afterward engaged in teaching and preaching at Orange Park, Fla. Joshua L. Maynard was installed pastor of this church March 30th, 1864, and dismissed October 25th, 1865. James D. Moore was installed pastor of this and the church at Central Village in March, 1867, and was dismissed in October, 1868. William Phipps was installed here June 9th, 1869, and after a seven years' pastorate died in Plainfield June 13th, 1876, sixty-three years of age. Asher H. Wilcox became acting pastor in December of that year, and resigned May 1st, 1883, closing a service of seven years and four months. Abram J. Quick became acting pastor August 1st, 1883, and remained until 1886. Reverend H. T. Arnold, the present pastor, began his services here in 1887. The church numbers at present about sixty members. The deacons who have served this church, with the dates when they were elected and when they closed their service by death or dismissal, as far as are obtainable, are as follows: Jacob Warner, 1705—; William Douglas, 1705-1719; Joshua Whitney, 1719-1753; Timothy Wheeler; John Crary, — -1759; Jacob Warner, 1749—; Samuel Stearns, 1749-1769; Elisha Paine, 1769—; Benjamin Crary, 1769-1796; Samuel Warren, 1774-1815; Joseph Fitch, 1784—; Thomas Douglas, 1784—; Jeremiah Leffingwell, 1805-1814; David Knight, 1805—; Abel Andros, 1816—; Rinaldo Burleigh, 1817-1863; John Douglas, 1820-1824; Benjamin Andros, 1824-1846; John Witter, 1840-1859; Vincent Hinckley,

1840-1848; Elisha L. Fuller, 1847-1881; William B. Ames, 1859-—; Robert Fowler, 1886-—.

The Separate church of Plainfield, having organized, as we have seen, from members who had withdrawn from the standing town church, about 1746, ordained one of their own number, Thomas Stevens, to be their pastor. Having thus withdrawn from the standing church, they refused to pay rates for the support of its minister, but this they were compelled to do by law. They, however, were able to support their own minister, and also proceeded to build a meeting house in the northern part of the town. They appear to have been less bitter and radical than the same sect were in some other towns. The following remarks in regard to them made by Reverend Mr. Rowland, one of their chief antagonists, are worthy of preservation:

“Although some things appeared among them at first very unwarrantable, yet considering their infant state it must be acknowledged by all that were acquainted with them, that they were a people in general, conscientiously engaged in promoting truth, and Mr. Stevens, their minister, a very clear and powerful preacher of the Gospel, as must be acknowledged by all who heard him.”

After the death of Mr. Stevens, the Separate church was for three years without a pastor, but continued to meet together and maintain public worship. After that the church was for a time associated with the Separate church of Voluntown, under the pastoral care of Reverend Alexander Miller. In 1760 a division of the town into two ecclesiastical societies was effected, by which the ministerial taxes on the Separates were somewhat reduced, but still the objectionable principle existed and they stoutly fought against it. Their numbers were increasing and those of the standing church diminishing. This led to conciliatory negotiations; Mr. Miller was allowed to preach in the town church, the principle of taxation for support of minister was abolished, a pastor of Separatist inclinations was called by the united factions, and the Separate church as a distinct organization ceased to exist.

Several of the manufacturers from Rhode Island, who established these industries in this town, were of the Quaker sect. Under their patronage a Friends' meeting house and school were started, which for several years enjoyed a considerable degree of prosperity. At the time of the “September Gale” of history

a house was in process of erection for this purpose on Black hill, but the work was demolished and materials scattered by that tempest. The loss, however, was soon made good, and a simple house was erected for their worship. Forty-five acres of land on Black hill were conveyed by John Monroe to Sylvester Wicks and Deacon Howland, in presence of Rowland Greene, to whom was committed the charge of establishing a Friends' boarding school. Some forty or fifty pupils from some of the most influential Quaker families of Rhode Island were received into this quaint and primitive family school, under the fatherly care of Doctor Rowland Greene, aided by his good wife and his brother, Doctor Benjamin Greene. The Quaker school and worship seemed to lend a calm and tranquil radiance to this ancient hill. This school was maintained for a number of years, giving a peaceful home and competent instruction to many willing pupils. Gentle and serene, even beyond ordinary Quakers, Father Greene and Master Benjamin maintained excellent discipline, and exercised a marked and salutary influence. Susan Anthony, Phebe Jackson, Samuel B. Tobey, Elisha Dyer, and many others famed in public life or benevolent enterprise, were trained in this Quaker school. First-days and Fifth-days they marched in pairs to the plain meeting house, the boys first and the girls at proper distances behind them, and there enjoyed a quiet session. The use of the meeting house has long since been abandoned, and in the early part of the present year (1889) it was sold to private parties, who, it is said, propose to convert it into a tenement house. But a few of those inclined to the faith and practice of this sect remain in the town.

CHAPTER XXI.

THE TOWN OF PLAINFIELD.—(*Concluded.*)

Plainfield of To-day.—The Methodist Church.—Union Baptist Church.—Congregational Church, Central Village.—Wauregan, Mills, Congregational Church and Village.—All Hallows R. C. Church, Moosup.—Schools of the Town.—Plainfield Academy.—Eminent Men of Plainfield.—Village Schools.—Manufactures.—Wauregan.—Moosup.—Central Village.—Kennedy City.—Plainfield Junction.—The Freshet of 1886.—Fraternal Societies.—Prominent Names of a Former Generation.—Biographical Sketches.

THE manufacturing industries have brought to Plainfield a new era. The old interests have faded almost away, and with the coming of the factories and workshops, railroads and a new class of people, a new era is open to her. To the notice of the churches and other institutions that belong to this era of the present day we propose to devote this chapter.

Previous to the year 1800, Methodist preachers found their way into this town, preaching in different neighborhoods, and organizing a class and society which in time held services in the old Separate meeting house. But the first beginnings of the organic life of the Methodist Episcopal church in this town of which we have definitely learned were in 1825, when the locality was included in the Norwich Circuit, under the joint pastorate of B. Hazeltine and O. Robbins. A class was formed with E. Dunlap as leader, and it was composed of Nathan M. Brown, Eunice Brown, Eliza Bass, Mary Torrey, Susan Stowell, Bridget Starkweather and Jesse Ames. The first quarterly conference held here was in January, 1827; Edward Hyde, presiding elder. In 1829 Plainfield was connected with Thompson Circuit, under I. Bonney, I. M. Bidwell, O. Robbins and P. Townsend. In 1830 John Lovejoy, with others, was appointed on the Thompson Circuit; and in 1831 Mr. Livesey and others. In 1832 Plainfield reported thirteen members, with B. Paine as pastor. He was followed in 1833 by E. Benton (for two years), Z. Loveland, J. Ireson,

N. Culver, H. Thatcher and A. B. Wheeler. During the pastorate of the latter two important events took place: the purchase of the "Union church" in Moosup, March 24th, 1842, which was the first house of worship owned by this church; and the withdrawal of sixty-five of their membership to constitute the Danielsonville church, which was done September 3d, 1842. In the meantime a great revival prevailed, in which many were added to this body. Beginning with 1843 and coming down to 1870 this charge has been supplied successively by the following pastors: D. Dorchester, V. R. Osborne, C. C. Barnes, J. Mather, G. W. Brewster, W. Emerson, J. F. Sheffield, W. Turkington, Peter S. Mather, G. W. Rogers, R. Parsons, J. M. Worcester, P. Crandall and George de B. Stoddard. In 1870 the membership reported was one hundred and forty, with seventeen probationers. Under the pastorate of L. E. Dunham, which continued two years and ended in April, 1872, a new house of worship was erected, the dedication of which occurred in February, 1872. He was followed by E. M. Anthony, W. W. Ellis, G. W. Hunt, E. J. Ayers, R. D. Dyson, F. A. Crafts and John McVey. The church is in a prosperous condition and has a membership of about one hundred and seventy-five.

The Plainfield Union Baptist church, located at Moosup, was organized October 16th, 1792, with nineteen members. On November 9th, of the same year, Reverend Nathaniel Cole, of Swansea, Mass., was called to become the pastor. The church soon had a membership of one hundred. Elder Cole labored here forty-one years, retiring from the ministry in 1833, at the age of seventy-seven years. The second pastor was Reverend C. S. Weaver, who served the church for three years, during which term fifty-three members were added to the church by baptism. The following pastors then successively served the church about two years each: Chester Tilden, Thomas Barber, John Read, James Smither and Frederic Carlton. The present house of worship was dedicated January 5th, 1843, at the close of the ministry of Elder Read. The pastorate of Reverend J. P. Brown began in April, 1849, and continued until May, 1871, a little more than twenty-two years. During this period three hundred and five persons were received into the church, two hundred and ten by baptism. In 1866 the bell, weighing 1,015 pounds, was purchased at a cost of \$670, which with other improvements swelled the extra expenses of that year to \$1,000.

In 1867 the church edifice was raised and a vestry placed under it at a cost of more than \$2,000.

In 1871 Reverend G. F. Raymond, of Brown University, was ordained to the pastorate. He resigned in the following August. In 1873 Reverend M. J. Goff was called to the pastoral office, but his labors soon ended with his death. In October, 1874, Reverend F. B. Joy began as stated supply, continuing until August, 1875. In October following Reverend C. B. Rockwell began a pastorate which lasted two years. Reverend L. W. Frink was pastor from the fall of 1877 to the spring of 1879. He was succeeded by Reverend J. N. Shipman in June, 1879. He continued until April, 1885, when he resigned to accept the pastorate of the Baptist church in Peabody, Mass. On November 5th, 1882, the house of worship was rededicated after extensive repairs and improvements, costing upwards of \$2,000, had been made upon it. Reverend Robert Pegrum, of East Marion, L. I., commenced his labors here July 1st, 1885. In September, 1888, he resigned this pastorate to become pastor of the Congregational church of Middle Haddam. The membership of the church at present is about one hundred and ninety. The deacons are Joseph Vaughn, Joshua Hill and P. M. Peckham. The church clerk is Waldo Tillinghast.

The Congregational church of Central Village was organized from membership having connection with the church at Plainfield street, in 1846, with forty-seven members. Jared O. Knapp was the first pastor, and under his labors a great revival refreshed the church and resulted in adding to its membership twenty-two persons by profession. From 1846 to the beginning of 1886, there were added two hundred and fourteen members, and losses occurred in that time by forty-four deaths, and many removals. The present membership is about seventy-six. The following list comprises the names of all the men who have served this church as pastors for any considerable length of time. After Mr. Knapp came N. A. Hyde, 1852, dismissed 1853; James Bates, 1853, dismissed 1855; William E. Bassett, 1856, dismissed 1859; George Hall, 1859; Paul Couch, 1862; J. K. Aldrich, 1863; George Huntington, 1864; J. K. Barnes, ordained October 5th, 1865, dismissed 1866; J. D. Moore, installed July 2d, 1867, dismissed 1868; G. J. Tillotson, began July 1st, 1870, continued about three years; John Avery, July 2d, 1873, continued till 1878; J. Marsland, 1879, continued till 1880; H. L. Reade, 1881; William

B. Clark, 1882, about two years; A. H. Wilcox, 1884, till January, 1886. From January, 1886, to May, 1887, there was no settled pastor. Dighton Moses was pastor, May 1st, 1887, to September 1st, 1888. This church had a time of great refreshing in 1857, when twenty-one were added by profession; and again in 1880, when twenty-two were added. The deacons now in office are Henry C. Torrey and Henry H. French.

In the early part of the year 1853 a company was formed for the purpose of manufacturing cotton goods, in the northern part of this town, and at the May session of the legislature it was incorporated under the name of "Wauregan Mills," taking the old Indian name of the locality, which means "Pleasant Valley." The first mill was built in 1853 and 1854, and families then began to settle there. In the early part of 1854 a Sabbath school was formed in the old school house, which stood where the new house now stands; and that Sabbath school has been continued without interruption till the present time. Prayer meetings were held among the families, but there were no Sabbath services nearer than Central Village, a mile and a half away. In 1855 the company built a hall for public worship, and the first sermon was preached in it September 24th of that year, by Reverend G. J. Tillotson, then pastor of the Trinitarian Congregational church in the adjoining town of Brooklyn. The place was supplied by different ministers till January 1st, 1856, when Mr. Charles L. Ayer, a licentiate of Windham Association, was engaged as stated supply. A church was organized by a council of Congregational ministers and deacons June 17th, 1856. The church thus formed was composed of the following members: Samuel O. Tabor, Benjamin Wilson, Charles L. Ayer, Joseph Chatterton, Nathan A. Chatterton, Mrs. Frances Taylor, Mrs. Mary E. Wilson, Mrs. Mary B. Ayer, Mrs. Fanny D. King, Miss Ann M. Woodward.

Mr. Ayer continued to preach till April 1st, 1858, when he resigned to accept a call to the churches of Voluntown and Sterling. The membership was then seventeen. From September 14th, 1858, to April 1st, 1859, Reverend Edward F. Brooks was engaged as a supply. December 19th, 1859, Reverend S. H. Fellows was engaged as acting pastor, and still remains, thus filling a term of nearly thirty years, and how much longer it may be must be left for the future historian to write. The whole number who have been connected with the church during its

thirty-two years of existence has been one hundred and sixty-four. The largest accession in a single year was in 1878, when thirty-four were received. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization of the church was celebrated with appropriate exercises, at which only one of the original members was present, though all except one were living. December 21st, 1884, the pastor preached a sermon in review of his twenty-five years' work here, which was published by request.

Services were held in the hall without any active effort to build a church until October, 1872, when Mr. James S. Atwood, agent of the manufacturing company, secured from them an appropriation of \$10,000 for the erection of a church, to be expended under his direction. The ground was broken April 1st, 1873; the corner stone was laid, with appropriate ceremonies, May 10th; and the church was dedicated January 29th, 1874. The building is of the Gothic style of architecture, with a chapel in the rear. The audience room has a seating capacity of about three hundred. It is supplied with a pipe organ, is lighted with gas, and is one of the most neat and commodious churches in the county. The membership of the church at the present time is about ninety.

The Roman Catholic church at Moosup, called All Hallows church, was dedicated by Right Reverend F. P. McFarland, bishop of Hartford, in July, 1859. The successive pastors of this church since that time have been as follows: Reverend P. B. Daily, appointed in July, 1859; James Quinn, appointed in June, 1861; J. J. McCabe, appointed in October, 1869; Ferdinand Belanger, appointed in April, 1870; John Quinn, appointed in November, 1872; D. Desmond, appointed in July, 1874; P. M. Kennedy, appointed in October, 1876; J. A. Creedon, appointed in October, 1878, to the present time.

The first public provision for the schools of this town of which we have any record was made in December, 1707, when "part of the country land was allowed for the encouragement of a school," and Lieutenant Williams, Joseph Spalding and Deacon Douglas were directed "to take care that there be one." A year later the town voted to send to Mr. James Deane to come and be their schoolmaster, and he agreed to undertake the work for what could be made out of it for half a year. At that time the school was supported by its patrons rather than by a general tax. In 1716 John Watson was "improved to keep school—the

deacons and selectmen to order the school and receive the money." It was next agreed that the school should be kept in three places, a suitable place provided for the schoolmaster to quarter at, and a house suitable to accommodate each part during the time of the school being continued in that part, to be provided at the charge of each part, and if any neglect to provide such place, the committee to order the schoolmaster to go to the next part; school to be kept first over Moosup river; next in the middle; next in south part.

In 1717-18 John Stoyell, one of the most noted schoolmasters of the day, was employed by several persons in the middle of the town to instruct their own children and others for twelve months. The town accordingly ordered all the school money for the year to be delivered to these persons and made it the public school for the whole town, the cost to each child being fourpence a week besides the public money. In 1719 Henry Wake was schoolmaster three months at Edward Spalding's quarter, receiving for service his "diet" and five pounds. In 1721 Mr. Walton maintained perambulatory schools in the different neighborhoods, the town paying him twelve pounds, finding board and keeping a horse for him. In 1720 the town was divided into school districts, north and south of the meeting house, each to order its own schools. In May, 1722, the first school house was ordered, forty or fifty rods from the meeting house on the country road, and in 1725 two others were completed—one at the south end, between James Deane's and Thomas Smith's; one at the north, near Joseph Shepard's. In 1740 ten shillings a week was deemed a reasonable recompense for the master's "diet and horse-keeping." In 1766 a committee was appointed to lay out school districts, which thus reported:

"1, Flat Rock district, bounded south on Preston, east on Voluntown; 2, Stone Hill district, north of Flat Rock; 3, Goshen, bounded north by Moosup River, south by Stone Hill; 4, South, bordering south on Preston, west on Canterbury; 5, Middle, extending from Mill Brook up Main Street, butting east on Stone Hill; 6, Black Hill; 7, Moosup Pond, northeast corner; 8, Moosup River; 9, Shepard Hill; 10, Green Hollow, beginning at Snake Meadow Brook or Killingly line."

Doctor Perkins, Daniel Clark, Stephen Kingsbury, Andrew Backus, John Howe, Jonathan Woodward, Philip Spalding, Samuel Warren, Samuel Hall and Isaac Allerton were appointed a

committee, one for each district, to see that the schools were kept. Although the number of teachers and schools was increased by this arrangement, the leading men of the town were not yet satisfied with their attainments, and in 1770 proceeded to form an association "for the purpose of providing improved facilities for the more complete education of the youth of the vicinity." They erected a brick school house of respectable size, procured teachers of a higher grade, and established a more thorough system of instruction in common English branches, but were unable to organize a classical department.

Stimulated by a legacy left by Isaac Coit, Esq., at his decease in 1776, the annual interest of which was to be applied to the maintenance of a Latin or grammar school in the new brick house in Plainfield, the associated friends of education proceeded in 1778 to organize a classical department, securing for rector Mr. Ebenezer Pemberton, of Newport, a gentleman of high scholarship and accomplishments, and unusual aptitude for teaching. His reputation and the favorable location of the school attracted at once a large number of pupils. Colleges and academies had been generally suspended. Seaboard towns were exposed to invasion, but this remote inland village offered a safe and pleasant refuge. Gentlemen in Providence, New London, and even New York, gladly availed themselves of its advantages, and many promising lads from the best families in the states were sent to Plainfield Academy. The good people of the town welcomed these students to their homes and firesides. More teachers were demanded, and the popularity of the school increased until it numbered more than a hundred foreign pupils, besides a large number from Plainfield and neighboring towns.

In 1784 Ebenezer Pemberton, Hon. Samuel Huntington, Hon. Eliphalet Dyer, Reverend Levi Hart, Preston; Reverend Joseph Huntington, Coventry; and General John Douglass, Major Andrew Backus, Doctor Elisha Perkins, Captain Joseph Dunlap, William Robinson, Samuel Fox, Ebenezer Eaton and Hezekiah Spalding, of Plainfield, with such others as the proprietors should elect (not exceeding thirteen in the whole), were made a body corporate and politic by the name of "The Trustees of the Academic School in Plainfield," and invested with ample powers for managing the affairs of the school. Plainfield Academy held a high position in popular favor. Its rector was one of the most accomplished teachers of the day, and its patrons and directors

were among the leading men of the state. The village was pleasant and healthful, and its most respectable residents were proud of the school, and ready to open their homes and hearts to the stranger students. Doctor Perkins, though now so much engrossed with the duties of his profession, was alive to the interests of the academy, receiving even scores of lads into his own family when boarding places were scanty. A prudential committee of three was chosen annually from the directors, who had charge of the buildings and supervision of the financial department, while a stringent code of by-laws regulated the deportment of the pupils.

The third academic building known as "The White Hall," about a mile south of the others, was soon completed and occupied by the English department under the charge of Mr. Alpheus Hatch, a faithful and competent instructor. The mathematical department in the brick school house was assigned to Mr. Nathan Daboll, the author of "The Schoolmaster's Assistant." The principal academic building, known as "The New Hall," was devoted to classical instruction under the immediate charge of Doctor Pemberton. Many aspiring youth were here fitted for a longer residence in wider and more famous halls of learning.

A handsome stone edifice replaced the old academy building, erected in 1825, on a beautiful and commanding site given by Mrs. Lydia Farlan, other public spirited residents subscribing funds for the building. About a hundred students were usually connected with the school, of whom nearly one-half pursued classical studies, fitting for college or professional life. At the beginning of this century it usually had, for years, about 100 pupils, diminishing in later years, by reason of high schools in adjoining towns; the attendance in 1845 being about 75, in 1860 about 50, and recently from 30 to 40.

Among the many eminent men who have been connected with the Plainfield Academy, as pupils or teachers, a few may be mentioned as follows: Nathan F. Dixon, eminent lawyer of Westerly, R. I., and M. C.; Hon. Edward A. Bradford, foreign minister; Joseph Eaton, judge of county court and state senator; Abraham Payne, prominent lawyer, of Providence; Rinaldo Burleigh, for many years principal; Calvin Goddard, an able lawyer; John Adams, an educator of great talent; Nathan Daboll, teacher, and author of arithmetic and almanack; Sylvanus Backus, speaker of the house of representatives many times;

Reverend Joel Benedict, D. D., eminent divine; Hon. James Humphrey; Reverend Edward Humphrey; Hon. James Munroe, member of congress from Ohio. The list might be extended indefinitely, but this indicates a vast blessing conferred on our country by Plainfield Academy. Among the many who went out from Plainfield homes, and the instruction of Plainfield Academy, none achieved a more useful life-work than George Shepard, D. D., Bangor, Me., professor of Sacred Rhetoric, stamping upon many minds the impress of his own high character and deep spiritual consecration. The Hon. Edward A. Bradford won much success at the bar in New Orleans, and was honored by an appointment as judge of the supreme court of the United States. Connection with the great anti-slavery conflict, as well as their own genius, have made the Burleigh brothers very widely noted.

The union of three school districts, and the erection of the fine building in Moosup, for the graded schools, at a cost of \$10,000, was a long step in the right direction, and marks an epoch in the progress of the town. The ample school buildings at Central Village and at Wauregan, indicate the public spirit and wisdom of the people.

It has already been stated that the town of Plainfield is largely dependent upon its manufacturing enterprises for the degree of prosperity which it enjoys. There are in the town several localities of more or less importance which have been built up by this industry. These are Moosup, Central Village, Wauregan, Kennedy City, Almyville, Gladdingville and Packerville, which last is on the Canterbury line.

The water power at the Union Mills was used for many years for a carding machine. The original mill was built about 1805, and was very small; afterward enlarged twice; owned at first by a joint stock company composed of Jonathan Goff, John Dean, Elias Dean, John Dunlap, Jonathan Whaley, Doctor Baldwin, David Anthony, of Providence, and others. The stone mill was built subsequently. Mr. Andrew Young, from Rhode Island, became superintendent in 1815, and continued fourteen years.

After the failure of Mr. Almy the mill stood still for two years, when it was bought by D. L. Aldrich of Hope Valley, and S. G. Gray, for \$33,000, by whom it was run till the lamented death of Mr. Gray, September 27th, 1885, when Mr. Aldrich became sole owner. The stone mill was put in operation in 1879, with 140

looms and 7,000 spindles, on 56 x 60 print cloths. At that time Mr. Aldrich was agent; Mr. Gray, superintendent; G. E. Tillinghast, bookkeeper; P. S. Phillips, overseer of weaving; W. J. Potter, overseer of carding and spinning; and John Gibson, overseer of mule spinning. In 1880 an addition was built on the back side of the stone mill 40 x 60, two stories, used as a lapper and slasher room. In the fall of 1881 another addition was built, to be used as a boiler and engine room. In the summer of 1882 an addition of 108 feet was built on the west end of the mill, of the same height and width as the mill, to accommodate the machinist, and for other purposes. In 1883 the old mill was torn down, and nearly on the same spot Mr. Aldrich laid the foundation for an addition of 100 feet in length, built the next summer, three stories high. Another story was added to the main mill as far as the tower. The mill has a capacity for 350 looms. It has 10,000 spindles, and employs upwards of 100 hands. D. L. Aldrich is sole owner and agent; G. E. Tillinghast, superintendent; W. J. Nichols, bookkeeper; P. S. Phillips, overseer of weaving; Frank Boudroe, overseer of carding; J. Gibson, overseer of mule spinning; H. A. Bell, overseer of spinning; Henry Daggett, in charge of slashing; G. Wilbur, boss machinist.

The energy and resources brought to bear on this enterprise by the owner, give assurance of the largest success. Several houses in good style of architecture he has already added to the village of Moosup.

In the northwestern part of the town is the manufacturing village of Wauregan, having a Congregational church within its limits proper, and a Roman Catholic church on the opposite bank of the Quinebaug, in the town of Brooklyn. The village is under the control of a company in whose manufactory the people are employed. There are in the village one store and a large hall for concerts, lectures and the like. The village has a library of one thousand volumes from which any one can draw books by the payment of ten cents a week.

About the year 1850 Mr. A. D. Lockwood bought the privilege, and in 1853 a company was formed, which obtained a charter from the state legislature under the name of the Wauregan Mills. In 1853 and 1854 a building 250 feet in length and 45 feet wide, three stories high, was erected. In 1858 and 1859 the length of this was doubled. In 1867 and 1868 another building 500 feet in length and four stories high was built on the

opposite side of the trench, and the two parallel buildings were connected in the middle by a building 250 feet long, extending across from one to the other. This makes a total length in the three parts of about 1,250 feet. It is built of rough stone, which was quarried in the vicinity, the outside being plastered. Both water and steam power are used. Water from the Quinebaug is carried through five turbine wheels, giving what by estimation is equal to one thousand horse-power. A steam engine of four hundred horse-power is also ready for use when occasion requires. The factory is lighted with gas, which is made on the premises from coal oil.

There have been no changes in ownership, except as sons of the original proprietors have taken the places of their fathers. The stock is owned mostly in Providence, R. I. Mr. A. D. Lockwood was agent at the commencement, but soon disposed of his interest. Mr. J. S. Atwood, who had been superintendent from the start, was then made agent, and retained the position until his death, February 20th, 1885. The works have now in successful operation 56,000 spindles and 1,400 looms, making different kinds of plain and fancy cotton cloths. The pay roll of the company contains more than eight hundred names. The annual product is between eight and nine million yards. Seven hundred cords of wood and fifteen hundred tons of coal are annually consumed. The farm owned by the company contains twelve hundred acres of as fine land as can be found in the state.

On the Moosup river, in the upper borders of Moosup village, is the locality known as Almyville, a factory village. In ancient times a carding machine occupied this water power for many years. The old mill, known as the woolen mill, was built by William Almy, of Providence, about sixty years ago. It was started and operated by Darius Lawton, making fine broadcloths, being about the first made in New England. At the end of ten years Mr. Lawton left, and Sampson Almy succeeded to his place and continued the business about ten years longer, when the change was made to cotton, and a variety of cotton goods was manufactured.

There was another mill built in 1856, and run as a woolen mill till it was burned in 1875. The present owners, Aldrich & Milner, bought in 1879, and have built a large mill on the site of the burned woolen mill. They have now running eight sets

of cards in the new mill, and four sets in the old woolen mill; and are now running 14 sets of machinery, with 84 broad looms, employing about 230 hands, with a pay roll amounting to nearly \$8,000 a month.

A new mill at the upper dam has been built, where are now running two sets of improved cards, with mules for spinning, and a Garnet machine for opening ends. Several new houses have been recently added to this beautiful village. Mr. Julius S. Bowes is the efficient superintendent of the Almyville mills.

Another section of the village of Moosup is locally known as Gladdingville, or Kiswaukee. A mill was built at this place by Joseph S. Gladding in 1817, for the manufacture of cotton cloth. Since then it has been owned by James B. Ames, by Hale & Miller, and by David Harris. It is now owned by Floyd Cranska, and is occupied in the manufacture of a very excellent article of thread. The mill is supplied with four thousand spindles, and some thirty to forty hands are employed.

Allen Harris, one of the pioneers of manufacturing in Central Village, was born in Smithfield, R. I., May 16th, 1790, and came with his parents to Plainfield in 1800. He, with Arnold Fenner, built the upper brick mill about the year 1828. For a while the village was known as Harrisville. Previous to that time Fenner & Richards had built the old wooden mill still standing in the upper part of the village, though not used as a mill for many years. That mill was afterward owned by Fenner & Borden. The lower brick mill was built about the year 1845. Borden died and Bowen became a partner, the firm being then known as the Central Manufacturing Company, of which mention has been made in a previous paragraph. After the death of both owners, the business was carried on by the heirs of Fenner & Bowen till the property was sold to the Leavens Brothers. J. Leavens' Sons, of Norwich, bought the property in July, 1881, and gave it the name by which it is now known, viz., the Kirk Mills. They immediately commenced making such changes as were necessary to manufacture the same kind of goods which they had formerly made. For that purpose the upper mill was arranged for fancy goods. This also necessitated many changes in the lower mill. The mills now contain 11,000 spindles and 234 looms. They are making fancy goods, wide prints and light plain goods, and employ some one hundred hands or more. The superintendent is Mr. H. Truesdell.

A locality in the suburbs of Central Village is known as Kennedy City. In ancient times here was only a grist mill. After the property was bought by John and Robert Kennedy, a saw mill was added, and a fulling mill. After some years John Kennedy sold out to Arnold Fenner, who built a cotton mill about fifty-five years ago. Previous to this time, some five years, the fulling mill on the north side was made into a flannel mill. About thirty years since machinery for making wicking and twine was put in, and work in this line has gone on till the present time. The works are now operated by Thomas Sheldon.

The ancient grist mill, located near here, on the Canterbury road, was built by Jared Cook about the year 1768. It was sold to William Cutler in 1775. He in turn sold it to John and Robert Kennedy in 1794; and it was again sold to Henry Cutler in 1856. It is still owned by him. About thirty horse-power of water is employed, and the mill grinds 250 bushels a week of corn, wheat and feed. The dam is supposed to have been built by one Pope some years earlier than the date given above, and a saw mill built on the opposite side of the river.

The Robinson & Fowler Foundry Company had its origin, as far as active work is concerned, in Canterbury twenty-five or more years ago, and was removed to Plainfield Junction in 1868. It is located near the railroad depot, and employs from thirty to forty hands. The works are largely engaged in making castings for the "Webster" and the "Richmond" furnaces. The present officers of the company are: J. Hutchins, president; Roswell Ensworth, secretary; W. Tillinghast, treasurer, and S. P. Robinson, agent. They also manufacture farmers' boilers, cook stoves, parlor stoves and office stoves, hollow-ware, cellar windows, cultivators, plows, horse hoes, cauldron kettles and machinery castings.

One of the most destructive freshets ever known in this town occurred on the night of February 13th, 1886. The Moosup river burst its banks, carrying away bridges and flooding buildings. An eye witness describes it thus:

"The Moosup River, usually so quiet and peaceful, had yielded to the elements and soon was beyond control, sweeping with a mad, irresistible force everything before it. At the vicinity of the 'Central bridge,' so called, the roads were completely ruined, while of the bridge nothing remains. All the houses on the flat were vacated, and on Sunday the scene was a terrible reality to the many visitors.

"The trench of the Central Manufacturing Company was completely torn out, stopping further operations at the mill, and throwing many out of employment until repaired. A few rods further down the stream is an old bridge, just above the railroad bridge, erected on apparently loosely built abutments, which took the first shock of the ice and debris from above, and, strange to say, the old bridge stood there, with the road washed away on both sides, a pigmy mocking at the strength of a giant. A few feet further down was the railroad bridge on strongly built abutments, which presented an entirely different aspect. The force of the stream was such that the south abutment was half gone, the bank under the track torn away, while the rails on the bridge were twisted toward the east quite a distance. The north abutment at first glance would seem but little damaged, but on close inspection, the now falling river showed that it had been undermined, so that considerable work will have to be done there.

"Below the railroad bridge was situated a building owned by J. P. Kingsley of Plainfield, and occupied by French's grist mill, Torrey Brothers' carriage shop, where they also made stable forks and wagon jacks, and in the basement by Fitch Cary and Torrey Brothers in making ox bows and yokes. Below the building the bank completely gullied; broken machinery, lumber stock and debris from above were mingled in wild confusion, the whole shop being a complete wreck. The water rose higher and higher until it reached the floor above, sweeping through the sides of the building and carrying away at least a third of the side towards the stream. The Torrey Brothers fortunately saved most of their tools on this floor, and of 500 bushels of corn grist put into the grist mill, 350 bushels were saved. Half the dam here is swept away, the high water still hiding traces of further destruction. On the roadway to the shops above mentioned was situated a barn and sheds, which the freshet, in its destructive career, swept away with half the road. The fields as far as the eye could see were strewn with broken timbers and wreck of every description.

"At Kennedy City, a short distance down the river, are situated small mills owned by Henry Cutler and Mr. Tourtellotte. Cutler's mill is occupied by Mr. Sheldon, but beyond the flooding of the lower part of the building the loss is slight. The flume was destroyed, and also the trench to the grist mill, making a loss of \$500 at least. Tourtellotte's mill was run by George

Tripp. The flood came with such force that a new bulkhead was torn away, destroying the flume and saw mill. Mr. Tourtellotte's loss cannot be less than \$1,000. The mill caught fire from old waste belonging to Mr. Tripp. His loss is nearly \$100.

"Moosup is in a bad shape on account of the freshet. The bridges are most all gone, and the roads in that section, many of them, are useless. The first bridge to go was the one about three miles above the village, then followed the David Hall bridge (abutments and all), the Morgan bridge at Almyville near the Blodgett House, the Kishwaukie bridge by Floyd Cranska's. The Carey bridge, it is thought, can be saved, though Sunday it was under water. A tenement house owned by Aldrich & Gray was carried off with the flood, giving the occupants barely time to get out, they losing all their furniture. Large numbers were at work on all the dams, but it seemed at one time as if all their efforts would be in vain. The ice started Friday night and came with such a force that it moved the cap stone at Aldrich & Milner's. The roadway of this firm was washed in two places. Floyd Cranska's race-way is damaged, and the dam at one time was in danger of going."

The four main bridges of the town were swept away. To replace them the town hired \$20,000 and built substantial iron bridges. The damage to corporate property of the town amounted to about \$25,000.

Plainfield Junction for many years was nothing but a railroad crossing, but now carries on foundry works and steam saw mills, and is building up into a village.

Old Plainfield Village has perhaps the finest avenue of trees in Windham county, and many handsome residences. Plainfield, like many similar towns, suffers from a multiplicity of interests, its villages being practically independent organizations. The senior village, however, occupies a nominal head-ship, and has still been able to retain the administration of the probate court. Its charge was held for twenty-three years by Hon. David Gallup, who removed his residence to Plainfield at an early age, and became very active in town and public affairs.

James B. Kilborn Post, No. 77, Department of Connecticut, G. A. R., was organized March 4th, 1886. Its charter members were John Allen, George A. Rouse, Stephen Aldrich, Henry F. Walker, Willis D. Rouse, Horace S. Swan, Henry C. Torrey, George Torrey, Daniel Champlin, Nathaniel P. Thompson, Wil-

liam H. Johnson, Henry F. Newton, Charles H. Rogers, Charles B. Wheatley, Joseph D. Lewis, George R. Bliven, James P. Pellett, Minor Spicer, John W. Fisk, William Dean, Elijah Green, James Whelan, Austin Fitzgerald, Jeremiah H. Pierce, Michael Fitzpatrick, Isaac Whitaker, William Gill, James McCaffrey, Robert Scholes, James F. Knight, Charles C. Card and John Rankin. Its meetings have always been held in Central Village. It has a nice hall in Barbour's building. Its first officers were: Post commander, George R. Bliven; S. V. C., Daniel Champlin; J. V. C., Charles B. Wheatley; Q. M., N. P. Thompson; surgeon, Charles H. Rogers; chaplain, Henry C. Torrey; officer of the day, Horace S. Swan; officer of the guard, John Rankin; adjutant, Henry F. Walker. The post commander for the years 1887 and 1888 was Charles B. Wheatley.

On May 6th, 1887, the post was presented with a most elegant silk double flag, with stars and stripes on one side and post flag on the reverse, a present from Hon. Joseph Hutchins, Mr. Edwin Milner, Mr. J. Arthur Atwood and Comrade Charles B. Wheatley. The flag is probably second to none owned by any post in the state. The post has now 82 members. The officers elected for the year 1889 are: Commander, George Torrey; S. V. C., James P. Pellett; J. V. C., William I. Hyde; surgeon, Charles H. Rogers; chaplain, Henry C. Torrey; Q. M., George R. Bliven; O. D., William Dean; O. G., Stephen Aldrich.

Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M., was chartered June 4th, 1872. Its location, as its name implies, is in the village of Moosup, where it regularly meets. The first W. M. of the Lodge was George H. Lovegrove. The present incumbent of that office is Charles N. Allen. Other officers are: Charles Bragg, S. W.; Orrin W. Bates, J. W.; George R. Bliven, treasurer; William H. Sargent, secretary; Reverend John McVey, chaplain. The Lodge has always met at Moosup. It owns no property except its regalia.

Protection Lodge, No. 19, I. O. O. F., was organized in Moosup in August, 1888, with 26 charter members. The first officers were: C. B. Wheatley, N. G.; Thomas Hurst, V. G.; F. T. Johnson, secretary; W. C. Bates, treasurer; John Westcott, permanent secretary. The Lodge at present numbers thirty-seven members. The present officers are: Thomas Hurst, N. G.; Henry N. Wood, Jr., V. G.; F. T. Johnson, secretary; Charles A. Wood, treasurer.

Quinebaug Lodge, No. 22, A. O. U. W., of the town of Plainfield, was organized July 9th, 1883. Its charter members were: Charles B. Wheatley, Amos Kendall, George W. Shepard, Albert F. Shepardson, Oscar F. Farland, William L. Green, George P. Dorrance, Thomas E. Main, George E. Tillinghast, George R. Fowler, Henry R. Brown, Charles W. Lillibridge, Sessions L. Adams, Edward H. Lillibridge, and James P. Pellett. The first officers were: Amos Kendall, P. M. W.; Charles B. Wheatley, M. W.; George R. Fowler, foreman; C. W. Lillibridge, overseer; George E. Tillinghast, recorder; George P. Dorrance, financier; S. L. Adams, receiver; O. W. Farland, guide; A. F. Shepardson, I. W.; W. L. Green, O. W. The successive master workmen from that time to the present have been: Charles B. Wheatley, 1884; George E. Tillinghast, 1885; A. H. Gulliver, 1886; James P. Pellett, 1887; Charles B. Wheatley, 1888; Thomas Hurst, 1889. The present officers are: George R. Bliven, foreman; Joseph Dawson, overseer; Henry R. Brown, recorder; Frank B. Wilson, financier; S. L. Adams, receiver; Henry N. Wood, Jr., guide; George Shepard, I. W.; George R. Fowler, O. W. The Lodge now has forty-seven members.

Two hundred and fifty-two men enlisted from Plainfield in Connecticut regiments, during the late war for the suppression of the rebellion.

Among the esteemed men of a former generation may well be mentioned the following: Deacon Caleb Bennett, who was elected deacon of the Baptist church in 1817, and held that office here 40 years, and on removing to New Britain he was again chosen to fill the same station, in which he remained till he died, November 13th, 1882, aged about 81 years. Andrew Young came from Rhode Island about 70 years ago, and was superintendent of the Union Mill 13 years. He reared two children, one of them, Sophia, is the wife of Mr. Charles A. Tillinghast, of Moosup; the other, now deceased, was the wife of Mr. Jason Potter, now of Sterling. Jonathan Goff was justice of the peace for a considerable time; he once represented the town in the legislature, and was clerk of the Baptist church fifty years. John Dunlap was judge of probate, justice of the peace and postmaster. Samuel D. Millett was one of the highly esteemed citizens of the town; was representative, justice of the peace, and filled many other offices of trust. In the Methodist church he was very useful, filling the important offices of trustee and steward many

years, and always ready to help in every good work. He died December 2d, 1884. Stephen Hall, Esq., commenced a private school for classical studies and the higher branches of English, in 1847, which he continued for about fifteen years. Among the hundreds of scholars trained by him, now scattered from Maine to California, may be mentioned Hon. Daniel Spalding, of the interior department; Alfred Fairbanks, a millionaire of California; Mr. Tillinghast, a prominent lawyer of Providence; and Reverend Jeremiah Aldrich, now of the state of Massachusetts.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

DAVID L. ALDRICH.—Noah Aldrich, a revolutionary soldier and a resident of Scituate, Rhode Island, married Huldah Whittaker, who died in her one hundredth year. They raised a large family of sons and daughters, among whom was David, born in 1770, in Scituate, where his life was spent as a farmer. A public-spirited and influential citizen, he was for many years a member of the town council, director of the Citizens' Union Bank, since extinct, and a liberal contributor to the Smithville Seminary, now the Lapham Institute, of Scituate. He married Hope Law, of Killingly, Conn., whose children were: George, William, John and David L. The death of Mr. Aldrich occurred in 1853.

His son, David L., was born April 27th, 1822, in Scituate, and was educated at the Smithville Seminary, from which he graduated in 1845. Removing to Providence, he entered upon a mercantile career as a member of the firm of Aldrich & Bean, continuing this business relation until 1851, the date of his removal to Hopkinton, Rhode Island, where in company with Barber Reynolds, he leased the Godfrey Arnold cotton mill and two years later purchased the property. At the expiration of the seventh year of this partnership the firm was dissolved, Mr. Aldrich continuing the business. In 1863 he erected a woolen mill at Plainville (now Richmond Switch), R. I., which was in 1880 sold to William A. Walton, its present owner. Mr. Aldrich, in company with Edwin Milner, then purchased the Moosup Mill, at Moosup, Conn., which they devote to the manufacture of fancy cassimeres. In 1865 he became the owner of the mills at Arcadia, in which print cloths are manufactured.

Mr. Aldrich was one of the projectors of the Richmond Bank, afterward merged in the First National Bank of Hopkinton, of which he is a director. He was also prominently identified with



W. L. H. S. 1877

Q. L. Harris

the construction of the Wood River Branch railroad, of which he is president. A republican and a strong protectionist in his political sentiments, he was a delegate to the national republican convention held in Chicago in 1880, but has not aspired to higher political honors.

Mr. Aldrich has been twice married. He was united May 12th, 1846, to Susan W., daughter of Hon. Joseph Sheldon, of Cranston, R. I. Their children were: Joseph S., who died in 1874, at the age of twenty-four; Laura, who died in 1856, at the age of five; and David L., Jr., whose death occurred in 1883, in his twenty-fourth year. Mrs. Aldrich died in 1870, and he was again married June 5th, 1872, to Mary M. Gray, widow of Ephraim Carpenter, of Providence. Mrs. Aldrich died in 1886, leaving two children, a son, William S., and a daughter, Mary A., aged respectively, fifteen and thirteen.

JAMES S. ATWOOD was born in Scituate, R. I., March 17th, 1832. He was the son of John and Julia A. Batty Atwood, and grandson of Kimball and Selinda Colgrove Atwood. He was educated at the Smithville Seminary in Scituate, and at the Woodstock Academy in Connecticut. At an early age he entered his father's cotton mill in Williamsville, in the town of Killingly, Conn., and there mastered every detail of cotton manufacture, from bobbin boy to general manager. He was perfectly familiar with the construction and working of every machine in a mill.

September 17th, 1855, he married Julia A. M. Haskell, of Cumberland, R. I. He had three children: William Hamilton, born November 8th, 1859; James Arthur and John Walter, born May 18th, 1865. William H. died January 18th, 1862, and the twins, who survive him, have taken his place as managers of the mills in Wauregan, where most of his active business life was passed and where he lived. He died there February 20th, 1885, in his 54th year.

When the first building for manufacturing purposes was erected in this place in 1853, he was appointed superintendent, and was soon advanced to the position of agent. Every machine in these mills, whose capacity has more than quadrupled since his connection with them, was put in its place according to his plan and under his direct supervision. The financial success of this great industry and the enviable reputation of the place are largely due to his wise oversight. He took a laudable pride in

the larger concern known as the Ponemah Mills, in Taftville, in the town of Norwich, which were built after his plan and under his eye. The phenomenal success of these mills on a class of fine goods, which were an experiment in this country, was largely owing to his good judgment, careful oversight and ability to adapt means to the desired ends. Of these mills he was agent from their beginning till his death. He was not one to risk the money of the corporations he managed in any foolish experiments. During one of the changes that are liable to occur in business enterprises in this country it became necessary to assume control of the mills in Williamsville, in which he and his brother William were largely interested, and his financial credit and wise judgment carried them through difficulties that might have proved disastrous in less careful hands.

Few men have the ability wisely to direct so many large and separate interests. Everything in the beautiful manufacturing village of Wauregan, in which most of his active business life was passed, bears the impress of his moulding hand. While acknowledged to be the peer of practical manufacturers, and possessed of ample means, he was a man of simple tastes, without the shadow of a desire for display, always hiding his ability under a modesty which was as rare as it was commendable. While he despised shams and hollow pretense, he was kindly in judgment, tolerant of the imperfections of others, ready to overlook mistakes, and saw in every man a friend and brother: He bore upon his countenance the stamp of true worth, and no one feared to trust him implicitly. The poorest and humblest could always approach him with the assurance that he would listen to them with the same respect as though possessing great wealth or occupying high positions. His heart throbbed in sympathy with the sorrowing and suffering, and his hand was ever open in relief. Irreproachable in character, gentlemanly in bearing toward every individual, it was no wonder that every one with whom he came in contact said: "He is my friend."

He represented the town in the legislature in 1868, and was an elector in the presidential campaign of 1884. Even when not a professed disciple of Christ, he took the deepest interest in all that pertained to the moral and religious welfare of the community, and was foremost in sustaining the institutions of the gospel at home and abroad. He was instrumental in secur-



W. H. B. 1877

W. H. B. 1877



W. W. Freeman & Co. N.Y.

William T. Babcock

ing the erection of the church in Wauregan, which is a gem of architectural beauty, a fitting memorial of one who sought not his own but others' welfare and happiness. In his ripemanship, with the simplicity and faith of a little child, he laid all his varied endowments, his honors, his possessions, at the feet of the Savior of mankind, and putting his hand into that of his Divine Leader, said: "I will follow thee wherever thou goest;" and in his master's work he found his joy. In January, 1878, he came into the church by an open confession of his faith, and from that time to the end he gave to its spiritual interests his thoughtful sympathy and unstinted help. Such a life, so pure, so genial, so intensely loyal to truth and duty, is a benediction everywhere, and the world is the poorer when it departs.

WILLIAM STUART BABCOCK.—Three brothers of the Babcock family came from England in colonial days—probably James, Jesse and Nathaniel—and settled in Newport, Rhode Island. Nathaniel afterward located in Stonington, Connecticut, and became the progenitor of the branch of the family represented by the subject of this biography. His descendant, Nathaniel, the grandfather of William Stuart Babcock, had two sons, Jonas and Stephen, and one daughter, Mary. Jonas served under Washington in the war of the revolution, and lost his life in the battle of White Plains in 1776. Stephen, born June 15th, 1765, was thrice married. The first wife, Mercy Hinckley, left four children—Eunice, Stephen, Samuel and Henry. Elizabeth Stuart, his second wife, left one daughter, Elizabeth. By a third union, with Mercy Davis, were born children: Charles D., Nathaniel S., Mercy A., John D., Jonas L. and William S.

The youngest of this number, and the eleventh child, William Stuart, was born March 20th, 1822, in North Stonington, Connecticut. The district and select schools of the neighborhood afforded him an elementary education, after which the summers were spent in work on the farm and the winters in teaching. He had been accustomed from boyhood to labor and naturally preferred the healthful employments of a farmer to a more sedentary life. In 1865, having previously purchased a productive farm in Plainfield, he removed from Stonington to that town, where he has since been numbered among its most industrious and enterprising citizens.

Mr. Babcock possesses an inventive genius. He has secured five

patents for improvements on wagons, plows and farm implements, that, owing to the reluctance with which new machines are adopted, have not proved remunerative. He was for some years treasurer and a director of the Robinson & Fowler Foundry Company, and is now president of the Plainfield Cemetery Association. He has given some attention to matters of a public nature, and served as selectman, member of the board of relief, justice of the peace, and representative in the Connecticut legislature. His services are also much in demand as trustee, arbitrator, and in similar offices of trust. In religion he is liberal in his views, as in contradistinction to orthodoxy. He early joined the state militia, was at the age of nineteen made a lieutenant, and later promoted to the rank of captain.

Mr. Babcock on the 4th of October, 1859, married Miss Frances E. (born June 15th, 1840), daughter of Richard H. Main, of North Stonington, Connecticut. They have three sons and three daughters, as follows: William P., born February 5th, 1862; Nella F., July 28th, 1865; Anna E., January 16th, 1867; Stephen R., February 6th, 1870; Callia M., November 16th, 1871; and Telley E., October 22d, 1876.

Mr. Babcock has always sought for light, his object being to find a reason, a fact on which to build. He has the manhood and courage to investigate and to express his honest convictions, following the light of his own investigations and the impulse of his heart, and not building his character on the opinions of others.

FLOYD CRANSKA.—James Cranska, the father of Floyd Cranska, a native of Portland, in the state of Maine, removed to Providence when a boy, and at a later date made Thompson, in Windham county, his home. Here he embarked in the shoe business, continuing in the same for nearly thirty years, and was for twenty years station agent at Grosvenor Dale, as also postmaster of the village. He married Asenath, daughter of Calvin Randall, manager and proprietor of mills in the eastern part of Thompson, Windham county. Their children were five sons and three daughters, of whom Floyd Cranska was born September 16th, 1849, in Thompson, his home until the age of nineteen. He was educated at the public schools, and during the summer assisted in farm work. On removing to Grosvenor Dale he became assistant station agent and postmaster of the village. Soon after, he was offered and accepted a position with the Grosvenor



Wm. F. Perry, J. C. M. T.

Floyd Cranska



Albert C Greene

Dale Manufacturing Company, as head clerk and paymaster in their mills. After a faithful service of ten years he severed his connection with this company, and in January, 1880, on purchasing the cotton mill at Moosup, formerly known as the Gladding mill, began the manufacture of cotton yarns for the weaving trade. Mr. Cranska made many improvements in this mill, and introduced machinery for the manufacture of a high grade of fine thread yarns. The superior quality of the productions of the mill created a steady demand for its goods, which were of a higher class than ever before made, and warranted the building of a stone addition in 1886, thus doubling its capacity. The market for its products is found chiefly in New England.

Mr. Cranska is a republican in his political faith, and while interested in local issues and public measures, cannot be diverted from his absorbing business interests to enter the arena of politics. He was, when a resident of Thompson, a director of the Thompson Savings Bank. He is a supporter of the Baptist church of Moosup, and treasurer and clerk of the society. Mr. Cranska was on the 3d of October, 1877, married to Evelyn C., daughter of Lucius Briggs, then agent of the Grosvenor Dale Manufacturing Company. Their children are: Annie Louise, Lucius Briggs, Harriet Atwood and Evelyn Clara. A daughter, Caroline Matilda, is deceased.

ALBERT C. GREENE.—Abel Greene, the grandfather of Albert C. Greene, resided in West Greenwich, Rhode Island. Jeremiah Greene, a son of the former, also a resident for years of West Greenwich, where he engaged in the milling business, and was also a skillful carpenter, married Freeloove Hopkins, of the same town. Their children were five sons and seven daughters, the youngest with one exception being Albert C. Greene, who was born in West Greenwich, February 21st, 1823, and in infancy removed with his parents to Plainfield. His education was such as the common schools afforded, and very limited. His father's death during his son's infancy threw the lad largely upon his own resources, and at the age of eight years he entered a factory where the long day of service extended from daylight until dark. Subsequently working on a farm and attending the winter term of the public school, at the age of twenty-three he entered a sash and blind factory and spent five years at that trade.

Mr. Greene next engaged in hewing ship timber and finally

established himself as a house carpenter, which occupation he followed for many years. Preferring an agricultural life, he in 1868 purchased the farm on which he resides in Plainfield, and cultivated the land until 1884, when he was succeeded by his son. He has since practically abandoned active business, though occasionally resuming his trade for a brief period.

He was in 1849 married to Miss Louisa, daughter of Rufus and Eunice Brown, of Charlton, Massachusetts, who died in 1860. Their children are: Turner E., Daniel F., and Rosa L., wife of Frederick Douglas. Turner E. is married to Carrie Richmond, and the wife of Daniel F. was Mary Phillips. Mr. Greene as a democrat represented his constituents in the state legislature in 1876 and has filled such local offices as constable, collector, etc. He is a member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, of Free and Accepted Masons.

JOSEPH HUTCHINS.—Nicholas Hutchins emigrated from England about the year 1670, in the reign of Charles the Second, and settled in Groton, Massachusetts. His two children were John and Joseph, the former of whom was born in Groton in the year 1678, and married a Miss Whitney. Their five children were: Joshua, John, Benjamin, Sarah and Abigail. Having lost his wife he removed to Plainfield, Connecticut, and married a Mrs. Pierce (formerly a Miss Weyman), whose children by this union were: Joseph, Weyman, Ezra, Silas, Anna, Keziah, Ruth and Mary. Joseph Hutchins was born in 1711, and married Sarah Levins, whose children were: Sarah, Rachel, Mahitable, John, Amasa, Judith, Sophia and Eunice. Amasa Hutchins was born in 1748, and in 1788 married Hannah Lefingwell, whose five children were: Joseph, Jeremiah, Samuel, Eunice and Marvin W. Joseph, of this number, whose birth occurred February 23d, 1789, in Killingly, removed to Plainfield and was married in 1817 to Nancy Bacon. Their children were: Mary, Joseph, Horace, Hannah and Nancy.

The eldest son, Joseph Hutchins, the subject of this biography, was born March 4th, 1820, in the town of Plainfield, with which he has during his whole life been identified both as a public man and a private citizen. The public schools and the Plainfield Academy afforded the opportunity for acquiring a thorough knowledge of the elementary branches of study, after which for four years the summers were devoted to the work of the farm, and the winters to teaching. He was on the



W. W. Frost, N.Y.

Joseph Hutchins

26th of October, 1846, married to Lucy R., daughter of Lemuel Woodward, of Plainfield. Their children are: Alice, who was in 1876 married to Joseph C. Noyes, of Cincinnati, and two who died in infancy. Mr. Hutchins soon after his marriage settled on a farm in the village of Plainfield and for seven years followed an agricultural life. He then purchased the property which is his present home, his summers being spent in his native town and the winters in Cincinnati, where he has large interests in real estate.

Mr. Hutchins was formerly an old line whig in politics and has since affiliated with the republican party, of which he has been one of the leaders in his county. He was for several years one of the selectmen of the town, and represented his constituents in the Connecticut house of representatives for the years 1858, 1875 and 1885, and in the senate in 1887, serving on the committee on banks and constitutional amendments. Mr. Hutchins is a director of the Uncas National Bank of Norwich, trustee of the Chelsea Savings Bank of Norwich, trustee of the David Gallup Fund for the town of Plainfield, and of several personal estates. His religious belief is in harmony with the creed of the Congregational church of which he is a supporter. He is at present trustee of the Ecclesiastical Society Fund of Plainfield.

EDWIN MILNER.—John Milner, the father of Edwin Milner, married Charlotte Dews, to whom were born four children: Edwin, Hannah, wife of Christopher Richardson, of Newark, New Jersey; Sarah, deceased, and John H., of Moosup, who married Mary Fidler. Edwin, the eldest of these children, was born in Horbury, Yorkshire, England, December 1st, 1842, and in his fourth year emigrated with his parents to America, landing in Boston, from whence they soon after removed to East Greenwich, Rhode Island, and resided in that borough until 1854.

In 1856 Westerly in the same state became the home of the family, where at the age of nine years the lad entered a woolen mill, and in due time became familiar with the process of manufacturing woolen goods. In his nineteenth year an interval was spent at school, and a thorough knowledge of the English branches obtained, after which the business of his life—that of a woolen manufacturer—was resumed. In 1863 he was employed by the Pequot Manufacturing Company at Montville, Connecticut, and in 1865 removed to Old Lyme, Connecticut, where under

the firm name of John Milner & Son, he embarked in manufacturing. Returning again to Westerly, Mr. Milner engaged with his father in the purchase and sale of wool, and in 1874, on forming a copartnership with D. L. Aldrich, he began the manufacture of woolen goods at Plainville, Richmond Switch, Rhode Island. The property was sold in 1880, and the firm became owners of the mills at Moosup, to which point he removed the following year. To this enterprise Mr. Milner has since given his attention, and by his thorough knowledge of details, brought the mills to a high state of excellence in their productions. Three hundred hands are employed in the various departments, and the woolen fabrics manufactured find a ready market in New York city.

The subject of this biography has been and is still actively interested in the political movements of the day, and a prominent figure in the ranks of the republican party. His services have been given to the cause of protection as opposed to free trade, in which it is his belief lies the salvation of American industries. He represented his town in the Connecticut house of representatives in 1887, and served as chairman of the committee on state prisons. He is an earnest advocate of all measures for the encouragement of education, and a member of the school committee of Moosup. He is connected by membership with Christ Protestant Episcopal church of Westerly. Mr. Milner was on the 17th of April, 1867, married to Sarah M., daughter of Darius Harding, of Old Lyme, Connecticut. Their two children are both deceased, their son Edwin having died in his eleventh year.

HON. JAMES S. T. STRANAHAN.—The Stranahan family had its origin in the Parish of Strachan, Kincardin county, Scotland, whence the name, which has also been spelled Strahan. Subsequently some of the members of this Strachan (now Stranahan) family, yielding to the inducements of King James I. to repeople that section, settled with other Scotchmen in the North of Ireland. Here their thrift, enterprise and success as farmers and manufacturers attracted wide attention, while their rigid adherence to their religious belief was equally conspicuous. They became, as it were, a new and heroic race, whose numbers were greatly augmented by the persecutions of the Stuart dynasty and by the rebellions of 1715 and 1745. It was natural that the prosperity of this independent and God-fearing people should



Edwin Miles

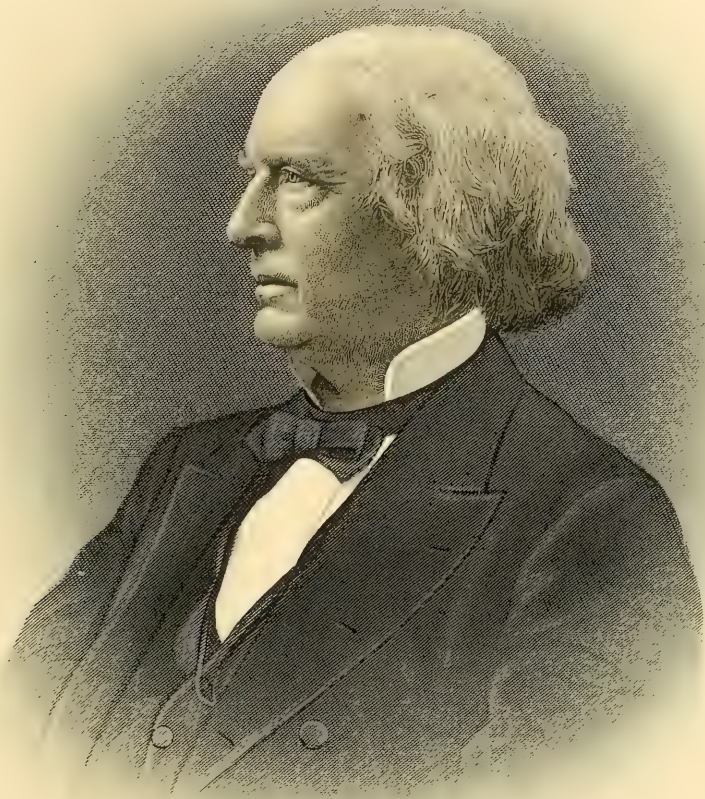
incur the hostility of an avaricious government, and they were forced by its exactions and rigorous regulations to seek, beyond the seas, a freer verge for their religious and industrial life. They came to America, and how well they have left their imprint upon our common history, every thoughtful student knows. To them and the descendants of these Scotch-Irish the United States owe much of their glory, wealth and enterprise.

One of these hardy emigrants to America in 1725 was James Stranahan, the founder of the family by that name in the United States. He was a prosperous and intelligent farmer, and purchased lands in Scituate, R. I., October 18th and November 29th, 1745, but soon after became a permanent citizen of Plainfield, Conn. In 1748 his name appears in the list of those who dissented from the teachings of the regular church, and he was classed among the Separationists of that part of the state. He attained the extreme age of 93 years, dying January 8th, 1792, and was buried in the cemetery at the South Killingly meeting house, where were also interred his son James, and members of two other successive generations of the family. Of the three sons of James Stranahan, John and William removed to Canaan, Columbia county, N. Y., where they became men of wealth and influence, and their numerous descendants fitly perpetuated the family name in other states. Farrand, a son of John, was a colonel in the war of 1812, and was taken a prisoner by the British at Queenstown, Canada. He died an eminent lawyer and politician at Otsego, N. Y., in 1826.

James Stranahan, the eldest of the three sons of the emigrant to America, was born in 1735. He married Martha Corey and settled in Plainfield, where he purchased a farm in 1768, on which he died January 2d, 1808. His widow died at the same place eighteen years later. He was a revolutionary soldier, and was highly esteemed for his many good qualities as a citizen. His homestead in Windham county, a mile south of South Killingly meeting house, passed into other hands more than half a century ago, and the name of the family no longer appears in the present affairs of the town; but descendants, through the marriage of a Stranahan daughter to a Parkhurst, still remain, and those removed cherish a warm feeling toward the place of nativity.

Samuel, the fifth son of James the second, following the tide of immigration, became one of the first settlers of Peterboro,

Madison county, N. Y. He married Lynda Josselyn, of Otsego county, N. Y., March 30th, 1803, and became an active business man in his new home, owning the mills in the village of Peterboro at the time of his death, September 8th, 1816, at the age of 38 years. In this village his son, James S. T. Stranahan, the immediate subject of this sketch, was born April 25th, 1808. Here he received his early education, and here, among the hills of central New York, he imbibed the spirit which stimulated him to the efforts which brought him distinction in his manhood. The early death of his father and the marriage of his widowed mother soon awoke him to the stern outlook of his youth, and he laid well the plans for his success in life. He fitted himself for the duties of a civil engineer, but abandoned this to engage in more active trade, becoming a wool merchant at Albany, N. Y. In 1832 he was induced by Gerrit Smith, the eminent philanthropist, who had known him from his boyhood, to found a manufacturing town in a township owned by him in Oneida county. This gave full scope to his powers, and called forth, at the early age of twenty-four, those faculties which made greater achievements possible in later years. The town of Florence developed from a few hundred inhabitants to a few thousand, and he was thus also brought into prominence in public life, being elected to the assembly from Florence in 1837, even though the whig party, to which he belonged, had theretofore been in the minority. After an honorable service he removed to Newark, N. J., in 1840, where he engaged in railroad construction and other public works. Seeking still a larger scope for his powers he permanently became a resident of the city of Brooklyn in 1844, where he has been identified with nearly every interest of public importance. To him more than any one else that city is indebted for its splendid system of public improvements. His extended services at the head of the Park Commission, serving as president from 1860 until 1882, have written his name imperishably upon the pages of Brooklyn's history. Prospect Park, the system of Boulevards, the Ocean Parkway, the Concourse at Coney Island, all attest to his ability and intelligence. Nor was his connection with the great Brooklyn bridge and the Atlantic Dock improvement less important. They all bear the impress of his originality and his entire devotion to public interests, insomuch that he has been styled the "Baron Haussman of Brooklyn," or being to that city



J. S. T. Stranahan

what Baron Haussman was to Paris. He was one of the few who believed in the bridge, and helped to organize the board of trustees which, under an act of the legislature, undertook the construction of the bridge, and remained in the board from the commencement of the work up to the time of its completion, and retiring as president of the board of trustees in 1884.

While thus active in the furtherance of the improvements of his adopted city, he was not unmindful of his public or political duties. In 1848 he was elected one of the aldermen of Brooklyn, which so popularized him that his election to congress in 1854 was made possible in a district where there was a strong opposition by the democracy. In 1864 he was a presidential elector; and all through the war for the Union he strove, by example and means, to perpetuate it inviolate. In this work his wife was no less zealous, taking an active part in the great Sanitary fair, and since the war has extended her charity in other directions.

Mr. Stranahan was elected an elector-at-large in 1888, casting his vote for General Harrison. He was appointed messenger to take the vote of the state of New York, thus cast, to Washington, which he claims to be the end of his public labors.

Mr. Stranahan was twice married, his first wife being Mariamne Fitch, of Oneida county, N. Y., who died August 30th, 1866, and who was the mother of two children, Mary and Fitch James, both born at Newark. His second wife was Miss Clara C. Harrison, a native of Massachusetts, who, before her marriage, was widely known in educational circles in Brooklyn, and who since that event has maintained her interest in the well-being of her home, in social and religious life.

It is pleasant to record a life so actively spent as has been that of Mr. Stranahan, and his example can well be imitated by the youth of the land, for he is a self made man, and yet withal a man of the people. His success and position have endeared him to the citizens of Brooklyn and New York, and they have borne public testimony of their appreciation. One of these events, December 13th, 1888, was of unusual interest, and enlisted the presence and participation of many prominent citizens, whose words of praise should be well prized, but whose expressions yet fall far short of the life of James S. T. Stranahan itself, whose deeds and the public works with which he was connected will endure when praise of tongue and pen are alike forgotten.

WALDO TILLINGHAST.—Pardon Tillinghast, the grandfather of Waldo Tillinghast, was an early resident of West Greenwich, Rhode Island, and for forty years a deacon of the Baptist church. He married Mary Sweet, of East Greenwich, to whom were born twelve children. Thomas of this number was a farmer in his native town of West Greenwich, and an ordained minister of the Six Principle Baptist church. He was three times married, his first wife being Mary Howard, of Woodstock, whose children are: Harriet S., Waldo, Henry S., Jared and Caleb E.

Waldo Tillinghast was born June 10th, 1833, in Killingly, and when a lad removed to Plainfield, where he became a pupil of both the district and high schools, and subsequently attended the Plainfield Academy. An independent and self-reliant youth, he was during the succeeding five years employed as assistant on a farm in summer and spent the winter in teaching. Removing to the village of Plainfield he next engaged in storekeeping, beginning business with a cash capital of twenty-eight dollars. His mercantile venture prospered and grew in proportions until a large and flourishing trade was the result, begun thirty-four years from the present date, with industry and perseverance for its foundation stone. Mr. Tillinghast is also largely engaged in farming, as in other successful enterprises.

As a republican he was appointed by President Lincoln postmaster of Plainfield, and continued twenty-eight years in office. He was for fourteen years clerk of the probate office, and for the same period judge of probate. He was for twenty-five years a member of the town board of education, and a portion of the time one of its school visitors. He is treasurer of the Robinson & Fowler Foundry Company. Mr. Tillinghast has been for nearly forty years a member of the Baptist church of Moosup, and for a long period superintendent of its Sunday school. He was married in 1859 to Mary A., daughter of Charles W. Crary, of Plainfield. Their children are: Frank H., Fred. W., Arthur C., and a daughter, Annie L.

CHAPTER XXII.

THE TOWN OF CANTERBURY.

Canterbury Geography.—Statistics.—Settlement of the Quinebaug Plantation.—Major Fitch.—Fitch and Winthrop Conflicting Claims.—Town Charter and Organization.—Boundary Disputes.—First Meeting House.—Dividing Line Established.—Adjusting Land Titles.—Distribution of Common Lands.—Ecclesiastical History.—Separate Movement.—Westminster Church and Society Formed.—Restoration of Harmony.—The Methodist Churches.—Roads and Bridges.—Accident on the Shetucket.—Bridges, Dams and Floods.—Turnpike Projects and Other Highways.—Public Education.—Miss Prudence Crandall's School.—General Town Progress.—Immigration and Enterprise.—Westminster Society.—Canterbury Manufacturing.—Canterbury Separate Church.—Baptists and Episcopalians.—Packerville Baptist Church.—Packerville Growth.—Masonic Lodge.—Biographical Sketches.

THE town of Canterbury occupies the middle of the southern tier of towns in Windham county. It joins New London county. Adjoining towns are Brooklyn on the north, Plainfield on the east, Lisbon on the south, and Scotland and Hampton on the west. Its territory is about eight miles from north to south, and an average of five miles from east to west, thus comprising about forty square miles. The northern part is hilly and exceedingly picturesque, but the southern part contains a great deal of low and swampy land. Much good farming land is found in the town, and agriculture constitutes the principal industrial interest of the people. The town contains the post offices of Canterbury, South Canterbury, Westminster and Packerville. Its grand list amounts to \$482,166. The number of school children, between the ages of four and sixteen, has been at different periods as follows: 1858, 448; 1881, 293; 1887, 209. The population of the town at different periods has been: In 1756, 1,260; in 1775, 2,444; in 1800, 1,812; in 1840, 1,791; in 1870, 1,552; in 1880, 1,272. The settlement of this locality commenced about the year 1690, and it included the land which in 1692 was made a part of the town of Windham, from Norwich. In 1699, when Plainfield was incorporated, Canterbury fell within its char-

tered limits, and so continued until October, 1703, when that township was divided, and the part of it which lay on the west side of the Quinebaug river was incorporated with the name of Canterbury. The distance of this town from Hartford is forty miles; from New Haven, sixty-four miles. The town is well watered by streams running down from north through much of the town to join the Quinebaug on the eastern boundary. But beyond two or three small saw mills and the grist mill of Messrs. J. & P. Williams, the water privileges which these streams afford are not improved in this town. Besides these branches, the business concerns of the town number two or three country stores, and as many blacksmith shops, carriage and wagon manufactories, and one or two cider mills. The importance of Canterbury seems to lie mainly in the past and in the future, not much in the present.

The first inhabitants west of the Quinebaug were probably the tenants of Peagscomsuck. Rowland Jones, who purchased in 1691 four hundred acres of land on what is still Rowland's brook, was one of the first settlers here. Thomas Brooks and Obadiah Johnson also settled west of the Quinebaug, but little progress was made till 1697, when Major Fitch, with his family removed thither, digging the first cellar and erecting the first permanent habitation in what is now the township of Canterbury. With hundreds of farms and many thousand acres at his disposal, he selected for his residence a neck of land partially enclosed by a bend in the Quinebaug river, below the river island Peagscomsuck, which gave its name to the settlement. At the time of his removal hither Major Fitch was a little past middle age, and had been for many years one of the most prominent men in Connecticut. From early manhood he had been actively employed in civil and military affairs—helped to re-establish colonial government after the revolution of 1689; was appointed assistant in 1690; was appointed sergeant major of New London county in 1696; served as boundary commissioner and land reviser; led military expeditions, manned forts, guarded the frontier, and exercised jurisdiction over the Mohegans and all their lands and interests. After the death of his first wife—a daughter of Captain John Mason—he married Alice Bradford, widow of Reverend William Adams, of Dedham, and mother of Mrs. Whiting, of Windham. Nine sons and daughters accompanied him to his new home here, and soon the Indian "neck" became an attractive family seat. The social position of Major Fitch,

and his wide business relations, drew many people around him, and his plantation at once became a place of no small consequence—a rendezvous for land traders, civil and military officials and hordes of idle Indians. Here courts were held, military expeditions organized, and many thousand acres of land bartered away. It was the first, and long the only, settlement between Norwich and Woodstock, extending its hospitalities and accommodations to many a weary traveler. The expedition that marched to the relief of Woodstock in 1699 passed the night, both in going and returning, “at Major Fitch’s farm in Peagscomsuck.” A road was soon laid out from Windham to this noted establishment, and connecting with Greenwich path, formed the great thoroughfare to Providence. Kent was the name given by the major to his plantation, but the Indian appellation persistently adhered to it.

Other settlers soon followed Major Fitch. Samuel Adams, from Chelmsford; Elisha Paine, from Eastham; Obadiah and William Johnson, Samuel and Josiah Cleveland, from Woburn; Thomas Brooks, Rowland Jones and Robert Green, all settled west of the Quinebaug. To encourage these settlers, Owaneco, in 1698, made over to Major James Fitch, Josiah Cleveland and Jabez Utter, the land between the Quinebaug and Appaquage rivers, extending eight and a half miles north of Norwich north line—except those lands formerly granted to Major Fitch, Solomon and Daniel Tracy and Richard Bushnell—“in trust for y^e inhabitants now dwelling in the plantation of Quinebaug, they bearing their proportion of charge, to wit: Thomas Brooks, Obadiah Johnson, Samuel Cleveland, Robert Green, Rowland Jones and Major Fitch. The above are on the west side of Quinebaug; the intention is to promote plantation work.” This conveyance did not prevent Owaneco’s selling the same land to *other* settlers at every opportunity. Indeed, some tracts were sold to three or four purchasers by this “flexible” and unscrupulous chieftain. In 1699 Owaneco sold to Obadiah Johnson and Samuel Adams all the south part of the tract west of the Quinebaug not previously appropriated. Elisha Paine bought two thousand acres in the south of the tract from Major Fitch. Tixhall Ensworth, of Hartford, also settled on land bought of Fitch. Josiah Cleveland bought land at Wanungatuck, “both sides of Tadneck Hill,” of Richard Bushnell; Solomon Tracy, Jr., took possession of the land owned by his father.

A conflict of land claims soon arose between Major Fitch and Fitz John Winthrop and others. Winthrop having been elected governor of Connecticut in 1698, secured a patent of confirmation of his title to certain lands which he had bought of the Indians. The patent to the town of Plainfield also aroused some opposition, and the ownership of land in this neighborhood was uncertain until the early part of 1703, when it was mutually agreed that a new town should be formed on the west side of the Quinebaug, to be called Canterbury, and the assembly being thus petitioned, granted a charter for the said new town. The line agreed upon and observed in the charter, as dividing the towns of Canterbury and Plainfield, followed the river down from the northern boundary of the town "to the center of Peagscomsuck island and from the center of that island due east a quarter of a mile—thence a line run straight to the south bounds of town a mile eastward from Quinebaug River." This jog into Plainfield in the southeast corner of Canterbury was made to allow the Canterbury people a share of the rich "plain" lands upon which they had been in the habit of planting in the common cornfields before the town was divided. The settlers whose names appear to the agreement to make the described line the division between Canterbury and Plainfield were James Fitch, Samuel Cleveland, Obadiah Johnson, Robert Green, Josiah Cleveland, Elisha Paine, Richard Adams, Thomas Brooks, Benjamin Rood and Isaac Cleveland.

The young town had considerable trouble to maintain its rights against the town of Plainfield, which obtained a patent covering all the land up to the Quinebaug, and though the patent was declared by the assembly to be void, yet the latter town, for a time at least, seemed to exercise jurisdiction under it. Thus the dividing line between the two towns was for many years a source of trouble, and an almost constant dispute was kept up on the subject, the particulars of which are too lengthy to be inserted here. Though Canterbury, when in October, 1703, it was endowed with town privileges, had but few inhabitants, their character and circumstances made amends for the smallness of their number. Most of them were men of means and position, accustomed to the management of public affairs and well fitted to initiate and carry on the settlement of the new township. Most, if not all, of the residences were in the eastern part of the town, overlooking the Quinebaug valley. The priv-

ilege of Rowland's brook, a short distance northwest from Peagscomsuck, was granted to Samuel Adams, in 1703, for building and maintaining a corn mill. The same year Obadiah Johnson was allowed to keep a house of entertainment for the public, "provided he keeps good order," and here town meetings were held and public business transacted.

No record can now be found of the first organization of the town government. The first town clerk was probably Elisha Paine, and the first selectmen William Johnson, Samuel Adams and Eleazer Brown. This absence of early records makes it difficult to trace the progress of the town at that period, but it was probably very slow for several years. The tenure of land was prejudicial to its growth and best interests. Mr. Samuel Adams at that time declared—"Before we were a town, Major Fitch, Richard Bushnell and the Tracys had swept up all the good land upon the Quinebaug with all the other good land, wheresoever it lay, and all for a song or a trifle, so that there was nothing left but poor rocky hills and hungry land such as no wise man under Heaven would have ventured to settle upon." Land titles were obscure and conflicting, and some tracts had been sold and resold by Owaneco till it was impossible to tell who was the rightful owner, and after subduing and cultivating such rough lands as were left them the settlers had often to pay off successive claimants or be sued from court to court to their cost and damage. With these difficulties in the way it is not surprising that Canterbury at first made but slow progress in settlement. Eleazer Brown, of Chelmsford, bought land at Wanungatuck of the Tracys in 1704. Jonathan Ashley, Benjamin Baldwin and Henry Smith appear among the inhabitants in 1705. Samuel Butts, of Dorchester, settled near Wanungatuck in 1706, and John Pelton and Jeremiah Plympton, Charles and Paul Davenport, of Dorchester, bought land in the south of Canterbury, "with buildings and fences," of Jeremiah Fitch the same year.

As soon as practicable the Canterbury people established religious services and employed a minister, and began to arrange for the erection of a meeting house. In 1705 Robert Green made over to the town for thirty shillings three and a half acres on a hill near his house, for public purposes. This plot has ever since been so held and is still known as Canterbury Green.

Disputes concerning boundary lines gave Canterbury much

annoyance. The line between this town and Windham was a matter of protracted controversy. A gore piece lying between two early surveys of Windham territory on the side joining Canterbury was claimed by both towns. The first Canterbury settlers in that part of the town, which received the name Apaquag, were Stephen Cook, Richard and Benoni Woodward, and Joseph Hide, who purchased land on Little river in 1708. Jonathan Hide and Stephen Frost settled in this section soon after. George Lilly purchased land between Nipmuck path and Little river in 1710. In 1709 the town contained thirty-five male inhabitants, and the taxable estates amounted to £1,619½.

The building of the first meeting house was perhaps the most absorbing enterprise with the early settlers of these towns, after they had provided some sort of comfortable habitations for their individual needs. Canterbury plead such weakness that the assembly remitted the usual "country rate" in 1708, on condition that it be used in the construction of the meeting house. This public edifice and a house for the minister were provided by 1711, and in that year the town received from the assembly permission "to gather a church and call a minister to office amongst them, according to the rules of the gospel and the order of discipline established by this government." The church was organized under this privilege, June 13th, 1711, and at the same time Reverend Samuel Estabrook, who had for several years been preaching here, was installed as their pastor. The constituent members of the church were Samuel Estabrook, Eleazer Brown, Elisha Paine, Samuel Cleveland, John Woodward, Richard Woodward and Stephen Frost. Others who joined the church during the next two years were Timothy Backus, James Hyde, Josiah Cleveland, Richard Adams, Jr., Samuel Butts, Thomas Brown and their wives, and Mrs. Samuel Adams and one or two others, bringing the membership of the church up to twenty-five.

After repeated outbreaks of the controversy with Windham concerning the dividing line an adjustment was made by a committee from the general assembly in 1713, and the result was a confirmation of the claim of Canterbury. Another long disputed claim was settled by the assembly in favor of Canterbury, by which the town secured possession of the land east of the Quinebaug in the southeast corner of the town, which Plainfield had tried to hold. This final decision was reached in October, 1714.

Thus Canterbury gained all that she claimed on both eastern and western borders. Nor did the enlargement of her territory stop here. She was also enlarged by the annexation of land on the north, by an act of the assembly in the same year. Richard Adams, John Woodward, Edward Spalding and Daniel Cady, already residents of this tract, were thus added to the inhabitants of Canterbury. The settlement of the bounds was followed by an influx of population. Edward Raynesford, of Cambridge, purchased land of Jeremiah Plympton, and removed to Canterbury in 1714. James Bradford, of Norwich, and John Dyer, brother of Thomas, of Windham, settled in Canterbury in 1715.

The first town meeting of which any record is still preserved was that of December 10th, 1717, more than fourteen years after the organization of the town. At that meeting John Woodward was chosen moderator; Samuel Adams, constable; Joseph Adams, town clerk and first selectman; Edward Spalding, Elisha Paine, Samuel Butts and Henry Smith, other selectmen; John Woodward and Solomon Tracy, grand jurors; Samuel Spalding and John Ensworth, fence viewers; John Dyer and Edward Raynesford, listers; Paul Davenport, surveyor; Deliverance Brown, collector; Robert Green, pound keeper; Richard Pellett, tavern keeper; and William Baker was made responsible for the "decency of meeting house." It was then voted "That the act made for the killing of rattlesnakes, April 24, 1716, should stand in force the present year."

The chaotic manner in which the settlement of the town had been made rendered some uniform tenure of land holding desirable, and to reach some uniform scheme by which the various owners holding under various titles could be placed on a common basis, especially with regard to the common lands still held under the town patent in undivided proprietorship. To settle this, it was agreed at a meeting of proprietary inhabitants, February 26th, 1723, "That those who were settled in habitation and paid to ye building of ye meeting house and minister's home shall have one share and one half-share in said undivided land; those who were settled when our patent was given and paid rates in ye town to have one share in said undivided lands, and those who settled since ye patent was given and now live within ye bounds of our patent to have a half-share. It is to be understood that none shall accrue any right by this vote but such as

are now settled within ye bounds of our patent, neither those that have granted these rights to their individual lands to ye town, and also, that there shall be no advantage taken by this vote to hinder us from granting any lands in a general way."

In the distribution of common land made under this arrangement, on April 30th, 1723, the following twenty-seven persons received each one and a half shares as being first settlers and planters: Major Fitch, Elisha Paine, John Pike, Thomas Brown, John Adams, Samuel Adams, Sr., Samuel Cleveland, Sr., Samuel Cleveland, Jr., Robert Burwell, Richard Pellet, Robert Green, Joseph and Obadiah Johnson, Richard Woodward, Stephen Frost, David Munrow, William and Timothy Backus, Benjamin Baldwin, Tixhall Ensworth, Samuel and Henry Adams, Jr., Joseph Adams, Solomon Tracy, Samuel Butt, Joseph Smith and Joseph Cleveland. The following twenty-three received one share each as proprietors under the patent: Lieutenant Edward Spalding, John Welch, Edward Cleveland, Jr., Richard Smith, James Bradford, Ephraim Davis, David Raynsford, Nathaniel Bond, Henry Adams, Sr., David Adams, Deliverance Brown, Thomas Adams, Benjamin Fasset, Abraham Paine, Elisha Paine, Jr., Daniel Fitch, James Hyde, John Port, John Dyer, Moses Cleveland, John Ensworth, John Cady and John Carter. The following eighteen persons received one-half share each as later settlers: David Carver, Thomas Davenport, Joseph Adams, Sr., Solomon Paine, Henry Cleveland, Theophilus Fitch, John Bacon, Jonathan Davis, Jacob Johnson, John Baldwin, Isaac Cleveland, Edward Raynsford, Joseph Ensworth, Richard Gale, Jabez Fitch, Nathaniel Robbins, Aaron Cady and Samuel Cook. The whole number of land proprietors in the township was thus sixty-eight, of whom some eight or ten were non-residents. Many of the later proprietors were sons of the first planters. John Bacon, of Norwich, bought land on the west side of Rowland's brook, of Timothy Backus in 1720. Samuel Parish, Sr., bought land and settled in the western part of the town in 1724. By the middle of the century the land of the town was so well taken up that but few new settlers were coming in. The lands and homesteads were mostly occupied by the descendants of the first settlers. Of the three branches of the Adams family which had settled in this town, Joseph Adams, Sr., died in 1748; Henry Adams, Sr., in 1749; the second Samuel Adams in 1742, and the third of that name in 1760. Numerous scions of these three branches were now in active life.

Having viewed the circumstances under which the settlement was begun and carried forward from a civil point of view, let us now look at the progress of the ecclesiastical history of the early town, which is so intimately associated with the other side of its life as to be inseparable from it. We have already noticed the organization of the church and the installation of the first pastor, Mr. Samuel Estabrook, at the same time, June 13th, 1711. Under the influence of a religious revival in 1721 the membership of the church was doubled within a few years. Mr. Estabrook was a man of wisdom and learning, and was much respected throughout the colony. The annual "Election Sermon" was preached by him in 1718. The "Election Sermon" was a religious service conducted by the minister on the day of the regular annual election in some towns, and was an introduction to the other public duties of the day. Records in many old towns show that during the last century such a custom prevailed with more or less regularity, but they are not sufficiently clear to give us definite information as to when the custom began or when it was abandoned.

After the death of Deacon Eleazer Brown in 1720, Timothy Backus and Thomas Brown were appointed deacons. Mr. Estabrook died June 23d, 1727, in the fifty-third year of his age. He left lands and buildings valued at £1,000, and a library of over two hundred volumes. An attempt was made to settle Mr. Samuel Jenison as pastor, but though he accepted the call, and agreed to the sentiments of the church, which were decidedly in favor of the Cambridge rather than the Saybrook code of church discipline, yet for some unexplained reason he was not inducted into the pastoral office. The next pastor was Mr. John Wadsworth, of Milton, a graduate of Harvard in 1723, who was ordained here September 3d, 1729, his call offering him a settlement sum of one hundred and fifty pounds, and a salary of one hundred pounds a year. The building of a new meeting house now excited considerable agitation, which was increased by other questions, of location, the formation of a new society on the northern border, and the division of the town into two societies. The new meeting house was built on the site of the old one during the summer of 1735. The size of it was about 50x45 feet on the ground and 22 feet high "between joyns." The church gained somewhat during the early part of Mr. Wadsworth's ministry, but was weakened by later events. The location of

the new meeting house was a vexing question, quite a number strongly contending for a new location more convenient for those living in the western part of the town. Then, again, a few of its members in the northern part were dismissed to help form the Second church of Pomfret. Elisha Paine, Sr., and Samuel Cleveland died in 1736; Deacon Thomas Brown in 1738; Deacon John Bacon in 1741. In 1741 the church suffered by a scandal, involving the minister, which resulted in his removal from his pastoral charge without making any attempt to deny the criminal charge which was brought against him by a female resident. In this weakened condition, while yet without a pastor, the great revival which swept over the country about 1740 found the church. This church, indeed, was one of the first to be awakened by it. At this time Elisha and Solomon Paine, two prominent citizens, were aroused and brought into new religious light, and engaged earnestly in religious work, devoting their energies to the promulgation of the new religious light which they had received. This religious awakening appears to have wonderfully pervaded the whole community, even the children in the schools being so filled or affected with it that they could hardly attend to their studies. This revival aroused a class of men to practical exercise of what they believed to be the teachings of the Spirit prompting them to exercise gifts of exhortation and public prayer, and the conduct of religious meetings and, indeed, religious teachings, without authority from any constituted human organization or system. This idea was not in accord with the ecclesiastical ideas of the people or the government of Connecticut, hence it aroused their attempts to oppose it. The more decided the attempts made to subdue this new inclination of the converts, the more determined and demonstrative became their action. The people of Canterbury church were largely given to this new idea. They listened to itinerants, held their accustomed meetings and continued to pray and exhort in defiance of the enactments of the general assembly declaring such conduct of meetings by others than the regularly ordained ministers of the standing churches an unlawful thing, and the action of associations and consociations against them. A few supported the government and protested against these unlawful meetings. A picture of the state of affairs is given in the following extract published in the *Boston Gazette*, on the authority of "A gentleman of veracity."

"Dec. 16, 1742. Canterbury is in worse confusion than ever. Their minister has left them, and they grow more noisy and boisterous, so that they can get no minister to preach to them yet. Colonel Dyer exerted his authority among them on the Lord's Day, endeavoring to still them when many were exhorting and making a great hubbub, and ordered the constable to do his office, but they replied, "Get thee behind me, Satan!" and the noise and tumult increased to such a degree, for above an hour, that the exhorter could not begin his exercise. Lawyer Paine has set up for a preacher, * * * and makes it his business to go from house to house and town to town to gain proselytes to this new religion. Consequences are much feared."

Two parties grew up, one in which the revival element prevailed, and this included a majority of the church; and another, favorable to the maintenance of the civil authority over the spiritual, and this was dominant in the society. Hence there was discord between the church and the society, and as the concurrence of both was necessary to call a minister, the church was a long time without a pastor while this conflict of sentiment was in progress. In the early part of 1744 the troubled waters had become so far quieted that a call was extended to Reverend James Cogswell to become pastor, the church and society agreeing in the call. He accepted the call, and all parties were pleased with his personal accomplishments, and listened to him for a brief period with apparent satisfaction. But the preaching and views of Mr. Cogswell did not prove agreeable to the revivalists, and after a few months' trial they abandoned the meeting house and the stated Sabbath worship, and held separate meetings in private houses under the leadership of itinerants and exhorters. Then followed another period of decided hostility between the two factions. Finally, on the 7th of August, 1744, the church formally withdrew from the society and adopted the house of Samuel Wadsworth as their place of meeting for religious worship. Here services were conducted by Solomon Paine or some other lay member. In the controversy which followed, Mr. Elisha Paine and Mr. Benajah Douglas were arrested and imprisoned for short terms in the Windham jail for the decided and aggressive part they took in the defense of their views. The few members of the church who remained in accord with the society now called themselves the church and joined with

the society in extending a call to Mr. Cogswell, and the council called for the purpose, concurring in that view of the matter, proceeded to ordain him as pastor of the Canterbury church and society. This was done December 28th, 1744.

After the withdrawal of the revivalists and the ordination of Mr. Cogswell, the standing church (as it was called) increased in numbers and enjoyed a fair degree of prosperity for many years. Mr. Cogswell, though so obnoxious to the Separatists, was very acceptable to that part of the church and society which had put themselves under his care, and was greatly respected abroad for prudence, piety and learning. In 1746 Stephen Frost was made deacon in place of Timothy Backus, who had gone out with the Separatists. A partial recognition of each other was affected between the two bodies, by which the Separatists kept the records of the original church, and the communion service was divided between the two bodies. Further particulars in regard to the course of the Separatist church will be given in another paragraph. Let us now notice the course of the body which succeeded to the name of the Church of Canterbury.

The aged parents of Mr. Cogswell removed to Canterbury after his settlement here, and died in a few years. Reverend James Cogswell married Alice, daughter of Doctor Jabez Fitch. Like many ministers of his day, he was accustomed to receive pupils into his family, fitting young men for college and the ministry. Naphthali Daggett, afterward president of Yale College, enjoyed for half a year "the faithful grammar instruction of Mr. Cogswell." A later pupil was one Benedict Arnold, of Norwich, then a bright little fellow, full of play and pranks, the recipient of many letters of counsel and warning from his excellent mother. While Mr. Cogswell continued in charge of this church the celebrated preacher, George Whitefield, came through the country. Mr. Cogswell said of him that he "rode in his chariot with a gentleman, had a waiter to attend on him, and Sampson Occum, ye Indian preacher, who rode on one of the horses, there being three to ye chariot." Mr. Cogswell, after much hesitation about the propriety of such a step, decided to ask him to preach, but Mr. Whitefield declined doing so. The visit of Whitefield, which occurred in 1764, was an event which excited great attention from the people.

The First society of Canterbury was again weakened by the

withdrawal of members to form the Westminster church and society. Under a charter granted by the assembly in October, 1769, the society soon organized, and a church was organized about a year later. A considerable of bad feeling was stirred up in the course of settling the different matters in which the two societies were involved, such as the custody of previous records and settling the minister's salary for the current year. In the midst of other discouragements the salary of Mr. Cogswell was found to be falling in arrears, and the church was obliged to consent "to his quiet and peaceable dismissal." After this the Canterbury church remained for many years without a settled pastor. Nathaniel Niles, of Norwich, preached for a season, but declined a call to settlement. Samuel Spring, Job Swift and Ephraim Judson also served as supplies during this unsettled period. Eliashib Adams succeeded to the deacon's office on the removal of Deacon Huntington in 1769. Jabez Fitch, Jr., was elected deacon in 1771. Though destitute of a settled pastor, public worship was maintained with considerable regularity. In 1773 the resources of the society were somewhat enlarged by the annexation of Black hill, the lands in possession of Timothy Backus, Isaac Allerton, William Underwood, Joab Johnson, Curtis and Ezekiel Spalding, Jabez Fitch, Jr., William Bingham, John Hough, Elkanah Cobb and Obadiah Johnson being by act of assembly "with the First Society of Canterbury for society and ecclesiastic privileges, but not for schooling, military and other purposes."

In this condition President Dwight found the church, when in his "Travels," he reported it as suffering much from lack of clergymen, want of harmony and declension of morals. In 1784 a fruitless attempt was made to unite both First church and Separate church in worship under the ministrations of Reverend Solomon Morgan. He was then installed, September 30th, 1784, as pastor of the First church. The deacons of the church at this time were Eliashib Adams and Daniel Frost; Joseph Moore was added to the number at a later date. The efforts of Mr. Morgan to conciliate and unite the churches were so far successful that in 1788 about thirty of the more prominent Separatists returned to the First society. The spirit of discord, however, had so fully taken possession of the people that it was difficult to hold the First church and society together. The orthodox principles and staid, conservative practices of their fathers were a burden to

the younger members, who wanted a wide latitude of freedom in the church, a new meeting house, new minister, and improvements in church music with the use of musical instruments. The action of the society being in some measure unfavorable, a movement was set on foot to organize an "Independent Catholic Christian Society," similar to one that had just been formed in Pomfret. Fifty of the leading men of Canterbury gave their names to support this new organization, but before they had proceeded beyond recall the First church made concessions and induced them to return to their former connection.

Church and society now began a work of general renovation. Mr. Morgan was dismissed from his charge; five choristers were appointed and a committee "to promote psalmody;" a bell was procured by voluntary subscription, and its ringing regulated by the society committee. The agreement between factions, which was the signal for these new departures, was effected December 26th, 1797. In 1799 it was voted to build a meeting house with a steeple, but the subscriptions did not sustain the vote, so the project was delayed awhile. The liberty granted by the assembly, of raising fifteen hundred dollars by a lottery, encouraged the society to continue its efforts. Other sums were procured by private subscriptions, and in 1805 a new meeting house was completed to the satisfaction of all parties. Daniel C. Banks and Thaddeus Fairbanks had supplied the pulpit during this interim. The pastoral vacancy was finally filled to the satisfaction of a unanimous people by the call of Reverend George Leonard, of Middleborough, Mass., who was ordained here February 3d, 1808. Owing to feeble health and an inclination to Arminianism, he remained but a little more than two years, when he sought and obtained dismissal. His successor was Reverend Asa Meech, who was installed October 28th, 1812. He enjoyed the favor of the people for a while, but his earnest religious spirit was not able to look with complacency upon the loose and immoral practices of many of the people, and as a consequence he fell into disfavor with the party who were absorbed in sensual and vicious amusements. He was succeeded in 1822 by Reverend Thomas J. Murdock, who is spoken of as "a model of a man, a scholar, a Christian, and a minister." His pastorate was terminated by his death in 1826, to the great grief of both church and society. Reverend James R. Wheelock was installed in 1827, but only remained in

charge two years. Reverend Dennis Platt was settled here March 31st, 1830, and continued to January 1st, 1833. He was somewhat noted as a revivalist, and during his stay received many into the church. The pastorate of Reverend Otis C. Whiton followed, extending from June 20th, 1833, to January 17th, 1837. Reverend Charles J. Warren served this church as pastor from September 13th, 1837, to April 1st, 1840. Reverend Walter Clarke became pastor May 18th, 1842, and continued until May 23d, 1845. He was followed by Reverend Robert C. Learned, who came December 22d, 1847, and remained until November, 1858. Reverend Charles P. Grosvenor was settled here March 9th, 1859, and remained to July 5th, 1871. He was the last regularly settled pastor the church has had. It has been supplied part of the time by students from Hartford Seminary, and other temporary supplies for short periods. Since the fall of 1888 it has been supplied by Reverend Mr. Hanks, of the Protestant Methodist church at Canterbury Plains. During the interval of supplies the more conspicuous ones were: John R. Freeman, about three years; Andrew J. Hetrick, two years; Reverend Parmlee, two and a half years; John Koph, two and a half years; and Hezekiah Reid, six months in 1888. The following deacons have served this church, the date given with each being that of his election: Eleazer Brown, 1711; Timothy Backus, 1719; Thomas Brown, 1720; Deliverance Brown, 1737; John Bacon, 1737; Stephen Frost, 1746; Samuel Huntington, 1753; Elishah Adams, 1769; Jabez Fitch, Jr., 1771; Daniel Frost, —; Joseph Moore, 1792; Joseph Simms, 1821; Lucius Bacon, 1821; John Francis, 1824; William Kinne, 1824; John M. Francis, 1844; Thomas G. Clark, 1847; George Sanger, 1867; Charles L. Ray, 1886. The society owns a parsonage. The membership of the church is about fifty at the present time.

Methodists have had some hold upon Canterbury for many years. This was a preaching station visited more or less frequently before any organization or building existed. They have, however, never gained any great strength. A building at Canterbury Green was erected by Job Angell, many years ago, for the use of the Universalists, who were then coming into notice for a short time. This building was used for purposes of trade and business after the Universalists subsided. It finally fell into the hands of Hiram Waldo, who sold it April 1st, 1859, to a board of trustees, to be used for a Methodist church. The Methodist

people at that time were using it for a house of worship. The building is 32 by 42 feet in size, and has a basement under it in which a store was kept, while the upper part of it was used for purposes of worship. About 1870 a division of sentiment grew up in regard to the location of a proposed new house of worship. Some desired to retain the old site, while others wished to build a house on the "Plains." The latter party became strong enough to carry their desires into execution, and for two or three years maintained worship in the town hall at the Plains. A house of worship was erected about the year 1872. Since that time the church there has grown stronger, and has maintained a regular ministry, the body choosing to connect themselves with the New York Conference of the Protestant Methodist church. This is the only church of that denomination in Windham county. It has at present about sixty-five members. Since about 1872 this church has been in charge of pastors Reverends Kelly, A. B. Purdy, D. H. Chappell, Thomas Tisdale and W. Hanks, Mr. Purdy being here two or three times. After the establishment of the church on the Plains, the remainder of the old church were unable to hold together and maintain worship, and the old meeting house has therefore been abandoned, and is now falling to pieces.

Keeping roads and bridges in order was one of the burdens of this town in the early years of its settlement. As early as April 24th, 1716, the town voted "That a highway be laid out, from the country road that leads to Norwich to the country road that leads to Windham." In 1719 a committee was appointed "to view the country road from Norwich line to ye upper end of this town, and to renew the bounds and monymets of said roade and to make their return to said town by the first of April next, with ye point of compass from bound to bound, at ye town's charge." The pay of those who served the town in running lines, fixing bounds and the like, was fixed at "two-and-six-pence per day and no more."

A sad accident occurred at the raising of a bridge over the Shetucket river in 1728. One end of the bridge, with forty men upon it, gave way and was precipitated into the stream below. One young man, Jonathan Gale, nineteen years of age, was instantly killed, and several others were so severely injured that they were laid out for dead, but afterward revived. Among those most seriously wounded were Lieutenant Samuel Butts, Samuel Parish and Ebenezer Harris.

A bridge over the Quinebaug, a formidable and troublesome stream to the early inhabitants, was built in 1728, by two gentlemen of Plainfield, but it was soon swept away by a freshet. Another was built at the same place by Samuel Butts, in 1733. This was maintained by private subscription for a few years till it was carried away by ice. Jabez Fitch, a son of Major James Fitch, built a bridge over the rebellious stream, which was, according to his own assertion, the only one south of Sabin's in Pomfret, all the others having been carried away by ice. He was allowed by the general assembly in 1740, the privilege of collecting toll on this bridge. A committee was appointed in 1753 to view sundry private ways supposed to be needful for roads on which people could pass from point to point without trespassing on one another's property, "especially by the way crossing Quinebaug river, known as Shepard's fordway," passing through land owned by the Shepards, Spaldings, Adamsses, and Paines. Joseph Woodward, of Windham, was allowed the privilege of a dam across Little river, on condition of erecting a good cart bridge over it, "so often as the same should be carried away by reason of waters being flowed by said dam." The Quinebaug, which had given so much trouble to the early settlers, was not yet reduced to proper subjection. In the severe freshet of 1757, the bridge was partially destroyed, and a serious casualty occurred in repairing it. David Nevins, an active and respected citizen, who had resided for ten years in Canterbury, while standing on a cross-beam, giving directions to the workmen, lost his balance and falling into the stream, was swept away and drowned.

In 1761, Ezra Ensworth, having constructed a dam across the Quinebaug in the south part of the town, was granted liberty to keep the same in repair for the benefit of his corn mill. This permission was reluctantly given because the interposition of anything in the way of the annual ascent of the shad up the river was most vigorously resisted by all the residents of the Quinebaug valley. Further opposition to this dam was raised by the argument that it was the cause of undermining and greatly damaging Butt's bridge, just below it. The latter bridge, kept in repair as we have before stated by private subscription, was rebuilt in 1760. The following winter ice again falling over the dam, carried off the bridge. The dam itself is supposed to have been destroyed by the same flood and never rebuilt. But now

the neighbors refused to rebuild the bridge, and the town also refused to undertake the task. The latter already had to join Plainfield in maintaining Nevins' bridge on the great public thoroughfare, and a fordway near Shepard's hill in the north part of the town, besides keeping up other bridges over Rowland's brook and Little river. Butts' bridge, however, was a public necessity, and in answer to petitions from Plainfield, Preston and other towns interested, the assembly provided by a special act in 1763, that Canterbury should build and keep in order a bridge at this place, under the direction of a county committee. Seth Paine, of Brooklyn parish, Nathaniel Webb, of Windham, and Asa Smith, of Woodstock, were accordingly placed in charge of the work.

So heavily did the burden of bridge building and repairing weigh upon the inhabitants of Canterbury that they, after failing in appeals to Norwich and other towns for help, petitioned the assembly for assistance. Solomon Paine and Daniel Frost, in behalf of the inhabitants of Canterbury, October 10th, 1782, averred that they were obliged to maintain a large number of bridges in said town, many of them across large and rapid streams, viz.: one and half of another over the Quinebaug, four over Little river, and six over Rowland's brook. They further represented that the bridge over the Quinebaug, known as Butts' bridge, in the southeast part of the town, was of very little service to the inhabitants, though of great utility to those traveling from Boston to Norwich, and was now out of repair. They asked for the privilege of raising by a lottery £250 to aid in the enterprise of repairing and rebuilding. The assembly authorized the lottery, and John Fitch, Daniel Frost, Doctor Welles, Deacon Asa Witter and Stephen Butts were chosen managers of the lottery. Captain Sherebiah Butts, Jabez Ensworth and John Adams were appointed to superintend the construction of the bridge, and the work was speedily completed. The bridge was a substantial one, resting upon stone piers. In 1788 the town was again called upon to join with Plainfield in rebuilding Nevins' bridge.

Turnpike projects called out frequent and sometimes strenuous discussion. The town at one time unanimously "disapproved of any turnpike gate being erected at or near Mr. Samuel Barstow's blacksmith shop, on the great road from Plainfield to Windham, judging it unjust and impolitic." The proposed Nor-

wich and Worcester turnpike excited much opposition. A committee was appointed to join with other towns in opposing it and the representatives were instructed to use their influence in the assembly in opposing the charter. All their efforts, however, were fruitless, and in May, 1801, the company was incorporated. Among the men composing it were Moses Cleveland, William Adams, Asa Bacon, Luther Paine and Jedidiah Johnson, of this town. The first meeting of the company was held at the tavern of Jedidiah Johnson, in the following September, and the work was rapidly pushed to completion. The great road leading to Windham was also made a turnpike in 1799, and a gate erected near the center of the town. In 1804 this gate was removed to a point near the Windham line, and a new gate placed near the Plainfield line.

The highway running north and south through Westminster society was a public thoroughfare from time immemorial, accommodating travel from Norwich town to the Massachusetts line. It is not known when this road was first laid out, but it was improved from time to time and made more passable. It is said that in the original survey the road was marked out to run a due north and south line over Westminster Plain, but that the occupant of the old Parks tavern, located nearly a half-mile eastward, managed to exert influences of human courtesies and distilled spirits, under which the engineers consented to lay out the road so as to pass near the tavern, joining the original survey about one and one-fourth miles from the point of divergence. A highway was laid out in 1785, from Ephraim Lyons' potash works to Parker Adams' mill, crossing the south part of the town.

Freshets and floods have occasionally subjected the town to serious outlay and inconveniences. The great flood of 1807 damaged Butts' bridge, and destroyed Bacon's (formerly Nevins') bridge, occasioning a fatal accident and loss of life. The ferry boat used as a substitute for the latter bridge was overloaded and swamped. Some plunged into the waves and swam ashore, while others clung to their horses and wagons and wrestled with the wild current, and all on board reached the shore in safety except Nathaniel Kinne, of Black hill, who, though a large and strong man, was injured in the struggle so that he was dead when brought ashore. Ten years later the town was again called upon to rebuild or repair both Bacon's

and Butts' bridges. The selectmen were enjoined to confer with Plainfield in regard to building a good boat to convey passengers and teams across the Quinebaug near Bacon's bridge. In case of a refusal by Plainfield they were directed to build the boat and have it kept ready for use, and to petition the county court to divide the charge of building the bridge between the two towns.

The schools received attention in the early years of settlement. March 4th, 1718, the town ordered "that there should be a school kept in this town six months, viz., two months at ye upper end of ye town, and two months in ye west row, and two months at the lower end, at one place or more, as either party shall agree." No school houses were as yet built. In 1724, and probably in other years about that time, a schoolmaster was employed to perambulate the town and teach one month at Widow Ensworth's, one month at John Fitch's, one month at Deliverance Brown's, one month at Nathaniel Bond's, and one month at David Adams'. He was to be paid twenty shillings a month out of the school funds of the town; and if no suitable person could be employed for that money, then those whose children went to school should pay their proportion, and so make up the deficit. In 1726 the town was arranged into three sections—"a school to be kept three months in each squadron." A new school house was built on the Green about the year 1730. Probably school houses were built in the other two sections or districts of the town about the same time or not long afterward. This "squadron" system was kept up for many years. About 1773 the interest in schools had lapsed into a very low state. Other public concerns so absorbed the attention of the people that school matters could receive but little thought. The number of "squadrans" had been from time to time increased. In 1770 they appear to have reached the number of seven. In that year Ezekiel Park, Captain Elijah Dyer, Nathan Waldo, Joseph Clark, Joseph Woodward, Asa Stevens and Joseph Stevens were ordered "to take care of the schools in their respective squadrons, and to hire suitable persons to keep the schools." A division into twenty-three districts was soon after effected, and the number of schools was increased. Private schools were often supported in different neighborhoods. A "night school" was kept at one time by Joseph Carter in the school house near Westminster meeting house, and at another time a writing

school was authorized. John Adams, after his graduation, commenced a select school in his own neighborhood in the North society, and exhibited such aptitude in the work as to draw a large number of pupils. Plainfield Academy was at this time in a state of temporary depression, which gave Canterbury a chance to establish a rival institution. In the spring of 1796 he removed his school to Canterbury Green, where it achieved immediate success and popularity, attracting pupils from the neighboring towns and some even from Woodstock and Thompson.

In the public schools the central district of the First society had liberty to erect a convenient school house on the Green, north of the meeting house, in 1795. In the following year a school society was organized with a large board of officers charged with the duties of taking care of the loan money, locating and bounding school districts and overseeing the schools in general. Committees were thenceforward appointed by the several districts, with nine overseers to superintend them. In the care of its schools the society of Westminster vied with the First society. Alexander Gordon, Samuel Barstow and Asa Nowlen were appointed to oversee the schooling in 1787. Nine districts were here set out, and Sherebiah Butts, John Barstow, Isaac Backus, Roswell Parish, Joseph Raynsford, Joshua Raymond, Daniel Downing, Robert Herrick and Nathaniel Smith were appointed to act as committee-men and collectors in their respective districts. In 1812 a school society was organized in the Westminster society. A committee-man and an inspector were appointed in each of the nine districts. Those appointed that year are named in respective order for each district as follows: No. 1, Amasa Park, Reverend Erastus Learned; 2, Daniel Meech, John Barstow; 3, Horatio Pettingill, Nathaniel Clark; 4, Nathan Allen, Ebenezer Waldo; 5, Daniel Storer, Asa Butts; 6, James Cary; 7, Samuel Chad, Isaac Backus; 8, Curtis Barstow, Samuel Barstow; 9, Roger Smith, Asa Burgess. Lack of endowment and suitable building accommodations compelled Canterbury to give up her prospect of an academic school establishment in her territory, and in 1801 her honored teacher, Adams, was drawn to the older institution in Plainfield.

In the autumn of 1831 a young ladies' boarding school was opened in a large house which had been vacated by the death of Esquire Paine, the teacher undertaking the enterprise being

Miss Prudence Crandall. A number of young ladies from the best families in town were enrolled as pupils, and the school seemed to start under most favorable auspices and with brilliant prospects of success. An impression favorable to the school was created in neighboring towns, which brought pupils from some distance. While the tide of prosperity was thus setting in, a colored girl applied to Miss Crandall and was admitted as a day pupil into the school. This gave offense to some of the patrons of the school, who threatened to remove their daughters if the colored pupil were retained. Miss Crandall, whose sympathies had become thoroughly aroused in behalf of the oppressed colored race, determined to open her school for colored girls, and, in anticipation of the withdrawal of her former patrons, at once dismissed all the white girls from her school. This action excited great indignation throughout the town. A public meeting of citizens was called and a delegation appointed to try to persuade Miss Crandall to relinquish her determination to establish a school "for young ladies and little misses of color." But she stood firm to her purpose, in the face of all persuasions.

Being in correspondence with some prominent abolitionists, who supported her with their advice and assurances of help, she arranged to receive pupils from different localities, even from distant cities and towns. The excited populace called a town meeting "to devise and adopt such measures as will effectually avert the nuisance or speedily abate it if it should be brought into the village." This meeting, held March 9th, 1833, in the large meeting house, which was filled to its utmost capacity with an angry and boisterous company of citizens, passed resolutions protesting against the proposed establishment of a school for people of color within the bounds of the town, in which they declared that "the obvious tendency of which would be to collect within the town of Canterbury large numbers of persons from other states whose characters and habits might be various and unknown to us, thereby rendering insecure the persons, property and reputations of our citizens." The very few who attempted to speak in Miss Crandall's behalf were stormed by interruptions, and at last driven from the house in the uproar which followed the closing of the meeting.

On the day appointed the school began; some ten or twelve colored girls from some of the respectable families of northern cities had found their way to Canterbury and sat down as pupils

before Miss Crandall. But the imagination of the people was now wrought up to that state of excitement wherein the most harmless objects appear as frightful goblins and hideous spectres. Another town meeting was held, and the little school of a dozen harmless negro girls was seen to be "designed by its projectors as the *theatre*, as the place to promulgate their disgusting doctrines of amalgamation and their pernicious sentiments of subverting the Union." Further, they declared that the pupils congregating here under the false pretense of education, were really to "scatter fire-brands, arrows and death among brethren of our own blood." The determination of the people to break up this school seemed to know no bounds. The general assembly was appealed to; the "boycott" principle was vigorously applied, and countless impositions and indignities practiced. Dealers in all sorts of wares and produce agreed to sell nothing to Miss Crandall, and the stage driver refused to carry her pupils. Stable refuse was thrown into her well, and then the neighbors refused her a pail of fresh water. Vagabond boys pelted her house with stones and rotten eggs, and hooted at the children if they appeared on the street, and from all this persecution and wrong there was no redress in Canterbury for Miss Crandall. Even her old father, a quiet, unoffending Quaker, living in the south part of the town, was made the object of threats and intimidation until he begged of his daughter to give up the school. But she held firm through this kind of persecution. Meanwhile the general assembly, in process of time, after sufficiently horrifying themselves with the possibilities of having "a nigger school on *our* common," labored in travail and brought forth the enactment: "That no person shall set up a school or educational institution for the instruction of colored persons who are not inhabitants of the state, nor instruct in such a school, nor harbor or board any colored person instructed in such a school, without the consent in writing first obtained of a majority of the civil authority and selectmen in the town in which such school is situated, under penalty of a fine of one hundred dollars for the first offense, two hundred for the second, and so double for every subsequent offense of which such person shall be convicted." This enactment was greeted in Canterbury by the ringing of bells, firing of cannon, and every demonstration of popular delight and triumph.

But these acts of persistent persecution awakened friends who

came to Miss Crandall with offers of aid and assurances of sympathy, and thus encouraged, she went calmly forward. She was at length arrested for violating a statute law of the state, and in default of bail was confined in Brooklyn jail for a night, being placed in the cell not long before vacated by the murderer Watkins, who had gone thence to the gallows. These circumstances proved more powerful in her favor than anything that her friends could have done for her. Many new friends now rose to offer her their sympathy and encouragement. Her trial went forward in due course of time, first in the county court, then in the superior court, in both of which verdicts were pronounced against her, and finally in the court of errors, where the case was reviewed July 22d, 1834, and where the former decisions were reversed. The school, meanwhile, kept steadily on with its work, Mr. William H. Burleigh and his sister for a time assisting as teachers in it, as did also Miss Almira Crandall, a younger sister of the founder. But though foiled in their attempt to crush out the school by law, the more bitter of her opponents appear to have determined to do it by force. One morning early in September her house was set on fire, but timely efforts saved it from being consumed. Again, a few days later, as the family were preparing to retire for the night, a number of men, armed with heavy weapons, surrounded the house, and at a given signal smashed in all the windows on the ground floor with one simultaneous crash. This sudden and violent outbreak of the spirit of ruffianism so thoroughly alarmed the inmates of the house that it was decided to abandon the enterprise and, as soon as it was practicable, the pupils were sent to their homes, and the property was sold and its proprietress, who not long before had married Mr. Calvin Philleo, removed from the scene of her conflicts and bid a lasting adieu to the people and the soil of Canterbury.

The scene of that strange conflict of human passion is to-day one of the quietest, most peaceful, homelike, restful and refined in all the domain of New England. Grand old elm trees make a beautiful and refreshing shade along the grassy street of the slumbering hamlet. The old house, once the scene of so much commotion, is now the peaceful home of Deacon Thomas G. Clark, and the hill near by, where the victors expressed their triumphs in the belching of cannon, now offers no suggestion of aught but one of the richest and quietest and most soul-inspiring

landscapes of homestead, valley, field and distant hills to be found in all this beautiful region. After long years of waiting the victim of those commotions is receiving by act of Connecticut legislature passed two years since, an award of \$400 a year in restitution for the damages she then sustained. She is still living, at about ninety years of age.

Reviewing the progress of the town after the revolutionary period we find Doctor Jabez Fitch prominent, occupying for many years the offices of justice of the peace, judge of probate and colonel of the Eleventh Regiment. He died in 1784. Colonel Aron Cleveland, so prominent in public affairs during the revolution, was struck with palsy while in the prime of life, and after a long and distressing sickness died in 1785. Deacon Asa Witter died suddenly in 1792. Captain Ephraim Lyon, Nathan Waldo, Eliashib Adams, Jabez Ensworth, David Baldwin, Benjamin and Asa Bacon, Captain John Adams, Daniel Frost, Captain Stephen Butts, and other older men were active in town affairs. Dr. Gideon Welles served acceptably as town clerk and treasurer. Doctor Jaireb Dyer engaged extensively in trade and medical practice. Several stores were opened on Canterbury Green. The status at the beginning of the revolution may be inferred from the fact that the population in 1775 was 2,392 whites and 52 blacks; and the grand list then amounted to £20,730. Though we have no figures to show definitely, yet it is supposed that the population and wealth were now increasing, though they may have been somewhat depleted by the seven years' war. Business and trade were now active. Farmers found a ready market for their produce. Doctor Dyer carried on a brisk trade with the West Indies, dealing largely in horses and cattle. Thomas Coit, from Norwich, engaged in mercantile traffic on Canterbury Green. Alexander Gordon, of Plainfield, opened trade in Westminster. Luther, son of David Paine, also engaged in trade. Jedidiah, grandson of Obadiah Johnson, kept the tavern, engaged in trade, and was active in military affairs. Abel Brewster opened a jeweler's store. William Lord engaged in the manufacture of hats. Isaac and Consider Morgan entered into partnership in 1804, and opened a very large stock of dry goods, drugs, hardware and groceries. Many new buildings were erected about this date. William Moore built a large house on the northeast corner of the crossings in the village, and there opened the first post office in Canterbury in 1803.

With the improved traveling facilities offered by the new turnpike Westminster village became a place of more importance. Doctor Rufus Johnson purchased a strip of the meeting house green in 1790, and afterward built a house upon it. Captain Stephen Butts entertained travelers in an old house adjoining. The old "Ford" house, on the Norwich road, and the Parks tavern house were called the oldest houses in the vicinity.

About the year 1800 the emigration movement broke out afresh, and many Canterbury pilgrims were wending their way to distant states. Captain Josiah Cleveland, of Bunker Hill fame, removed to Owego, N. Y. Doctor Azel, son of William Ensworth, settled in Palmyra, where he became an active and influential citizen. A pleasant eminence in Rome, N. Y., called Canterbury hill in honor of its first settlers, became the residence of Gideon, John, Elisha and Daniel Butts, Samuel and Asa Smith, Samuel Williams, Thomas Jewett, Daniel W. Knight and others from Canterbury. Eliashib Adams, Jr., Elijah Herrick and William Bingham attempted a settlement in Lewis county, near Lake Ontario, but Herrick was drowned in crossing Black river, and Adams finally settled in Maine. Deacon Eliashib Adams followed his son to a temporary home in Massachusetts. Alexander Gordon sought fortune in the far South, and William Moore established himself in the snows of Canada. General Cleveland had the honor of giving name to the locality upon which the present noble city of Ohio stands. In 1796 he went out in command of an expedition sent by the Connecticut Land Company to survey and settle the Western Reserve. He arrived at "New Connecticut" on the 4th of July, and on the 22d mounted the bluff from a landing made a short distance up the Cuyahoga river and took possession of the site of Cleveland, where the town and village plan was laid out by him in October following.

At this time, *i. e.*, in 1800, the population of Canterbury was 1,812, and the grand list amounted to \$48,037.48. About 1811 Gad Bulkley kept the post office and David Hyde carried the mail and served the newspaper class that held its headquarters at Samuel Barstow's much frequented tavern. The tavern at the Green enjoyed its accustomed patronage and popularity, successive landlords having been Jacob Bacon, Samuel Hutchins, and Captain Bicknell. Its previous occupant, Jedidiah Johnson, was made general of the Fifth Brigade in 1809. Canterbury at this date furnished most of the officers for the 21st Regiment, *viz.* :

William Kinne, adjutant; Samuel Hutchins, quartermaster; Isaac Knight, paymaster; Reverend Erastus Learned, chaplain. Its company of light infantry was one of the best drilled and equipped in the state. Its officers in 1809 were: Joseph Simms, captain; Nathan Fish, lieutenant. In 1815 they were: James Aspinwall, captain; Samuel Hough, lieutenant; Amos Bacon, ensign.

In October, 1769, the inhabitants living west of a north and south line surveyed through the center of the town, were granted by the assembly a charter and endowed with distinct privileges as a society to be known as Westminster. A broad hill summit near the center of the society was chosen by unanimous consent for the site of a meeting house, where about four acres of land at the crossing of the roads was given by John Parks for the site of meeting house, burial ground and common. The meeting house was built during the summer of 1770. A church organization was effected November 20th, 1770, the following persons subscribing to the covenant according to Cambridge platform: Stephen Frost, Robert Herrick, John Lewis, Isaac Woodward, Daniel Davis, Thomas Bradford, William Bond, Jacob Foster, Enos Woodward, Peter Woodward, Amos Woodward, Ebenezer Davis, Anthony Glass, John Herrick.

The first minister obtained by this church was Reverend John Staples, who was ordained April 17th, 1772, and continued till his death, February 15th, 1804, in the sixty-first year of his age and the thirty-second of his ministry. He was followed by Reverend Erastus Learned, installed February 6th, 1805, and continued in the relation until he died, June 30th, 1824, in the fiftieth year of his age and the twentieth year of his ministry in this church. His successor was Reverend Israel G. Rose, ordained March 9th, 1825, and dismissed by council October 11th, 1831. The fourth pastor was Reverend Asa King, who commenced his ministry in this church in 1833, and continued in the pastoral relation until his death, December 2d, 1849. Through increasing age and infirmity he was obliged to resign the active pastoral labors March 1st, 1848, and the pulpit was then supplied by Reverends Pierce, Strong, Baldwin, Burchard and Hazen for short terms. The last mentioned, Reverend Reuben S. Hazen, was installed as pastor of the church September 26th, 1849. His pastorate was terminated by his death, March 31st, 1864, while in the seventy-fourth year of his age and the fifteenth year of

his ministry to this church. The pulpit was supplied for some time by Reverends Hiram Dyer, Lucien Burleigh and others. Reverend E. F. Brooks was installed as pastor of this church July 11th, 1866, and remained here until the relation was dissolved by council June 9th, 1868. In the fall of the same year Reverend Joseph W. Sessions commenced his labors here, and continued that service until November 14th, 1877, when he resigned on account of advancing age. After that time the church was supplied by Reverends Mr. Chappell, H. L. Reade and E. H. Parmalee, until March, 1881. On the first Sabbath of that month Reverend Stephen B. Carter, whose boyhood had been spent within the pale of this church, commenced his pastoral relation with the church, and he still continues in that position.

The meeting house of 1770 is still in use by this congregation, no other having been erected since. The total membership January 1st, 1889, was fifty-two. In 1847 the Hon. Seth Staples, a lawyer of New York, son of the first pastor, presented this church with a fine toned bell, which is still in use. In 1883 a valuable clock was presented by Pulaski and Pliny Carter, and their sister, Mrs. Pamela C. Spalding, all of whom were born and reared in this parish, though now residing elsewhere. Extensive repairs upon the house of worship were made a few years since, in which former residents generously assisted, no doubt taking pleasure in thus manifesting their love for their old church and childhood's home.

A singular circumstance is on record in connection with Westminster, though nothing about it connects it with ecclesiastical history except that it is from a minister's diary. July 2d, 1788, a remarkably black cloud seemed to settle down upon this locality, and from it burst forth a terrific thunder storm, accompanied by great and numerous hail stones. The record states that in places the hail was nineteen inches deep (perhaps in some gutter or other hollow spot). It is said that glass was much fractured and grain and grass lodged, and gardens were destroyed, so that people in the neighboring towns sent relief to the sufferers. The violence of the storm probably did not extend over a very large extent of territory.

Canterbury has never been largely identified with manufacturing interests. And the passing decades that have seen such interests build up some other towns almost like a magic spell, have seen the interest in manufacturing rather decline here than

build up, until now the town contains no manufacturing establishment of any prominence. One or two carriage shops, one or two saw mills and a grist mill are all that could claim a place in such a list. The manufacturing record of the past is briefly told. The first footprints of this kind that we see are the granting of liberty to Samuel Adams, in 1703, to build and maintain a corn mill on Rowland's brook, a short distance northwest from Peagscomsuck. This mill was kept in operation for a long time. At a later colonial period, tannery works were also carried on by Benjamin Morse. About the revolutionary period and after, potash works were carried on by Ephraim Lyon, Stephen Butts and Phineas Carter. Mr. Carter afterward carried on a cooperage at Westminster, employing four to six hands in the winter season. After the revolution, tanneries were established in several parts of the town. The Downings, who settled in the western part of the town and gave their name to the brook, built a mill upon it and made a little settlement there, which for a time flourished in quiet seclusion and almost isolation from the other parts of the town. Saw and grist mills were carried on successfully by the Morses and the Bradfords in the North society, a dam being allowed on Rowland's brook in 1804. In the course of the next decade or two, carding machines were in operation on Little river, and cloth dressing and hat manufacturing were carried on with increased vigor. Captain Joseph Simms engaged in making heavy black woolen hats, and employed sometimes four or five journeymen. He was established at Canterbury Green. James Burnet also carried on the same business at Westminster. At that time some six or eight stores were needed to supply the wants of the town. In cotton spinning Canterbury made no great pretenses, and only achieved one small mill, which was erected by Fenner, Harris & Bulkley on Rowland's brook, and did a good business during the war of 1812. The clothing works of Captains Kingsley and Spafford at that time enjoyed abundant patronage. In 1826 the project of a canal along the valley of the Quinebaug absorbed much attention and was highly approved by the people of this town in open town meeting. The canal was to run from Norwich to the north line of the state, its objective point being Worcester. The state granted a charter for it, but before it was executed the railroad project superseded it. At this time the people were considerably aroused to the questions of manufacturing enterprises presented

to them. Flourishing foundry works were carried on in the north part of Westminster parish by Isaac Backus and Nathan Allen. Samuel Hough and D. F. Eaton engaged successfully in axe-making. George Justin made scythes and axes in his blacksmith shop in South Canterbury. Perez Austin made and repaired wagons and carriages. Phinehas Carter kept up his cooper's shop. Stillman G. Adams carried on the hat manufacture in place of Deacon Simms, who had removed to New York state. Sufficient domestic cloth was yet made to keep Kingsley's and Foster's fulling machines and clothiers' works in active operation. Cotton manufacturing was still carried on in Fenner's factory, and Canterbury shared with Plainfield the rising promise of Packerville. A house and farm to furnish a home for the poor of the town was purchased in 1829. One after another all these attempts at manufacturing have faded out, like the stars of night before the coming of the day.

The Separate church of Canterbury, of whose origin we have already spoken, was the first in the colony to come out boldly and squarely adopt "new light" principles, and renounce fellowship with the established churches. On January 6th, 1745, the principles of this church were subscribed to by its adherents, fifty-seven in number and representing some of the oldest and most respectable families in Canterbury, among them the names of Paine, Backus, Cleveland, Adams, Johnson, Fitch, Bacon, Hyde, Bradford, Brown, Parish and Carver. The separation of this church from the "standing order" was attended by a bitter and lengthy controversy. The Separates were not exempt from taxation to support the church from which they had withdrawn, and which had the strong arm of civil authority in its favor. They were taxed for Mr. Cogswell's settlement, ordination and maintenance, and for repairing the meeting house, which had been seized and held by their opponents. Refusing to pay these rates, their cattle, goods and household furniture were forcibly taken, and in default of these they themselves were cast into prison. Their appeal to the assembly for relief was also without avail.

Under these burdens the body of Separates, still contending that they were "the regular Congregational church of Canterbury," went boldly forward and proceeded to call a minister. After considerable time given to two or three fruitless attempts, they succeeded in securing the acceptance of Solomon Paine,

who was duly ordained September 10th, 1746. March 25th, 1747, Thomas Boswell and Obadiah Johnson were solemnly ordained to the office of deacon. The communion service and records of the Canterbury Congregational church being in their hands, they regarded the smaller part of the church who held with the society as having gone out from them, but they generously consented to divide the communion service with that body, though they determined to hold the records, and did so. After a time a meeting house was built on the high land west of Canterbury Green. The membership, when the church was fairly established, reached one hundred and twenty. The church was extremely zealous. Its members professed the utmost devotion, and under color of preserving the purity of its membership, kept up a constant and scrutinizing watch upon the conduct of its members. The most trivial derelictions from duty were noted and reported, and unbending exactions marked their dealings with offenders. The Canterbury church, with all its glowing fervency and affection, within three years suspended or cut off more than one-third of its approved membership. No plant could long withstand such vigorous pruning, and it is not wonderful that the Separate church was not permanently successful.

After the death of Solomon Paine, which occurred October 25th, 1754, the church was for some time unable to find an acceptable pastor, and diminished in numbers and influence. In 1757 Joseph Marshall, of Windsor, was chosen to be their pastor, but was not ordained until April 15th, 1759. In its weakened condition the church could no longer support itself and pay rates toward the support of the legally recognized church, and in May, 1760, a number of them, with other citizens, asked for society privileges, thus yielding the proud position they had formerly taken in spurning the idea that the civil government had any right to grant authority or privilege to an ecclesiastical body. This action gave great offense to some of their number, who repudiated it, though exemption from payment of minister's rates to another society had been secured by it. Mr. Marshall was dismissed from the care of this flock by a council held May 29th, 1768. After this the church, losing its members by death, by disaffection and by emigration, grew steadily weaker, and was not again able to secure a pastor. Some returned to the First society, being allowed by that body

to make contributions to the support of the ministry instead of being taxed for that purpose, which system was so repugnant to them. The Separate church, however, still held its organization and occasionally had preaching by some itinerant of their own color or by the Baptists. Efforts were made to unite them with the First church in 1784, but without success. In 1788 they removed their meeting house to the north part of the town, about thirty of their number having gone back to the First church. In its new location a congregation was gathered, and William Bradford, having been previously ordained, assumed charge of the flock. After his death the church maintained a feeble existence, its members carrying on the services, but during the early part of the present century its life went out and the meeting house was left to fall to pieces.

Before the revolutionary war Baptist sentiments were promulgated in this town by Ebenezer Lyon, and many of the "standing order," as well as Separates, were drawn toward their acceptance, much to the annoyance and grief of Mr. Cogswell and others. These Baptists held to what was called "mixed communion," and often joined with the Separates in worship and ordinances. Captain Ephraim Lyon was one of their leaders for a time, but he turned to the Methodists, while the preacher, Ebenezer Lyon, embraced the doctrine of universal salvation, and the Baptist faction fell into obscurity.

Soon after the revolution there were many Universalists in Canterbury who despised and flouted Mr. Morgan, and seemed likely to do much damage. Several united with the Universalist society of Oxford, then under the pastoral care of Reverend Thomas Barnes, who frequently held service in Canterbury and other Windham towns. So much interest was excited that meetings were advertised in school houses "to discuss whether the doctrine of universal salvation could be proved from Scripture."

Episcopal service was frequently performed by Reverend George S. White after his removal to Canterbury, and in 1827 "St. Thomas Parish" gained a name, but scarcely a "local habitation." Its existence was, however, recognized for several years, but has long since become a thing known only to history.

The Packerville Baptist church was organized in October, 1828, with twenty-two members, of whom nine were males and thirteen females. Levi Kneeland was ordained as its pastor at

the organization. During his pastorate, which ended with his death in August, 1834, the church received three hundred and sixteen members. At the date last mentioned, the membership of the church numbered two hundred and twenty-seven. Mr. Daniel Packer, from whom the village took its name, was instrumental in establishing the church, aiding it both by his judicious efforts and large expenditures in building a house of worship and providing a parsonage. A meeting house, built in 1829, is still in a good state of preservation. A nice chapel was built in 1875 at a cost of eight hundred dollars. The church also has a good parsonage and several acres of land belonging to it, and a small invested fund. The present membership of the church is ninety-three. Manufacturing in the village having ceased, the congregations are necessarily small and the members considerably scattered. The pastors succeeding Mr. Kneeland have been as follows: Tubal Wakefield, 1836 to 1842; Martin Byrne, 1843 to 1844; D. D. Lyon, 1844 to 1847; Silas Hall, a short time from April, 1847, he being excluded and deposed; John B. Guild, 1848 to 1853; Alfred Gates, 1853 to 1858; John Payne, 1858 to 1863; Percival Mathewson, 1863 to 1867; George R. Northrup, 1867 to 1870; W. N. Walden, 1870 to 1875; Otis B. Rawson, 1875 to 1879; J. F. Temple, 1879 to 1885; A. A. Robinson, 1886 to the present time.

The origin of this settlement, which lies in the southeast corner of the town, partly within the town of Plainfield, was the manufacturing interest which attached to the Andrus factory privilege, which in 1818 passed into the hands of Daniel Packer and Daniel Lester, of Preston. After a few years of suspension the work was resumed under the management of Mr. Packer. Buildings were repaired and enlarged, new machinery introduced, and a village started into life. Captain Packer was pained at sight of the loose morals and irreligious inclinations of the people, and engaged his interest and exertions in establishing the church whose history we have noticed. For a time the village prospered and seemed to promise to become a center of permanence. A fire engine company was organized here in 1830. With the drift of manufacturing interests to other centers the growth of the village has declined, and in later years the industry here has been abandoned.

Many of the leading men of the county were early connected with the Masonic Lodge at Hartford. Upon petition of Colonels

Gray and Grosvenor, Moriah Lodge was instituted at Canterbury in 1790, and soon received into its brotherhood many of the active leading men of the county. Its first master was Colonel Ebenezer Gray. Among those actively interested in this lodge were Moses Cleveland, Evan Malbone, Thomas and Lemuel Grosvenor, Samuel and John McClellan, Daniel Larned, Daniel Putnam, William Danielson, Lemuel Ingalls, Albigeance Waldo, John Brewster and Jared Warner. Its annual commemoration of St. John's day, in June, was one of the great festivals of the year, excelled only by the Fourth of July and general training day. The Masonic brethren from all the adjoining towns in full regalia marched through the street, with banners, music and open Bible, to be entertained in hall or grove with a grand oration and a sumptuous dinner. For many years the lodge took part in festival days and occasions, and made a prominent factor in the social life of the community.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

MARVIN H. SANGER, of Canterbury, the second son of Ebenezer and Eunice (Hutchins) Sanger, was born in the town of Brooklyn, Conn., April 12th, 1827. In the year 1828 his parents removed to Canterbury, which has since been his residence. His paternal grandfather was James Sanger, of Windsor, Hartford county, Connecticut, and his grandmother, Olive (Chaffee) Sanger. Mr. James Sanger died in Windsor. Some years after Mrs. Sanger returned to Canterbury, where she resided until her death at an advanced age. The children of this marriage were three sons, James, Ebenezer and Ira, and one daughter, Sally. Immediately after the death of his father, Ebenezer removed from his native town (Windsor) to Canterbury, and remained a resident thereof until his decease in 1863, with the exception of a brief time in Brooklyn. He was twice married, his first wife being Olive Chaffee, a cousin bearing the maiden name of his mother. His second wife was Eunice, daughter of Amasa Hutchins, of Plainfield, to whom were born five children: George, Marvin Hutchins, Hannah, Olive Chaffee and Sarah Wright.

The subject of this sketch at the conclusion of his educational period, which was passed in the common schools of the vicinity and at Bacon Academy in Colchester, Conn., devoted three years to business as a mercantile clerk in Plainfield and Providence, R. I. In 1849 he returned to Canterbury and engaged in busi-



M. H. Parry

ness for himself as a merchant, continuing with success for a period of twenty years. During this time he was also interested in the cultivation of a farm, which still continues to occupy a part of his time and attention. He had meanwhile not been idle in another field of action, and for a number of years was honored by the suffrages of his townsmen when a candidate for many local offices. In the years 1857 and 1860 he was elected to represent the town at the general assembly. Affiliating, as he always had, with the democratic party, in 1873 he was elected by that party to the office of secretary of state, and re-elected in 1874, 1875 and 1876, holding the office four terms or four successive years. In the years 1882, 1887 and 1889 he was again honored by the citizens, as representative in the legislature of the state, serving as a member of the committees on banks, insurance, temperance and capitol furniture and grounds. In 1864 he was elected judge of probate for the district of Canterbury and is the present incumbent of that office. For more than a quarter of a century he has been town treasurer, and for nearly that time town clerk.

He is president of Brooklyn Savings Bank and a member of Moriah Lodge of F. and A. M., of Danielsonville. He was a member of both legislative committees as a representative of the state at the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the settlement of the city of Columbus, Ohio, in September, 1888, as also at the centennial celebration of the inauguration of George Washington as president of the United States, in New York city in May, 1889. Mr. Sanger has often been called to fill important positions of trust, among which have been the settlement of several estates of considerable magnitude outside of his judicial district.

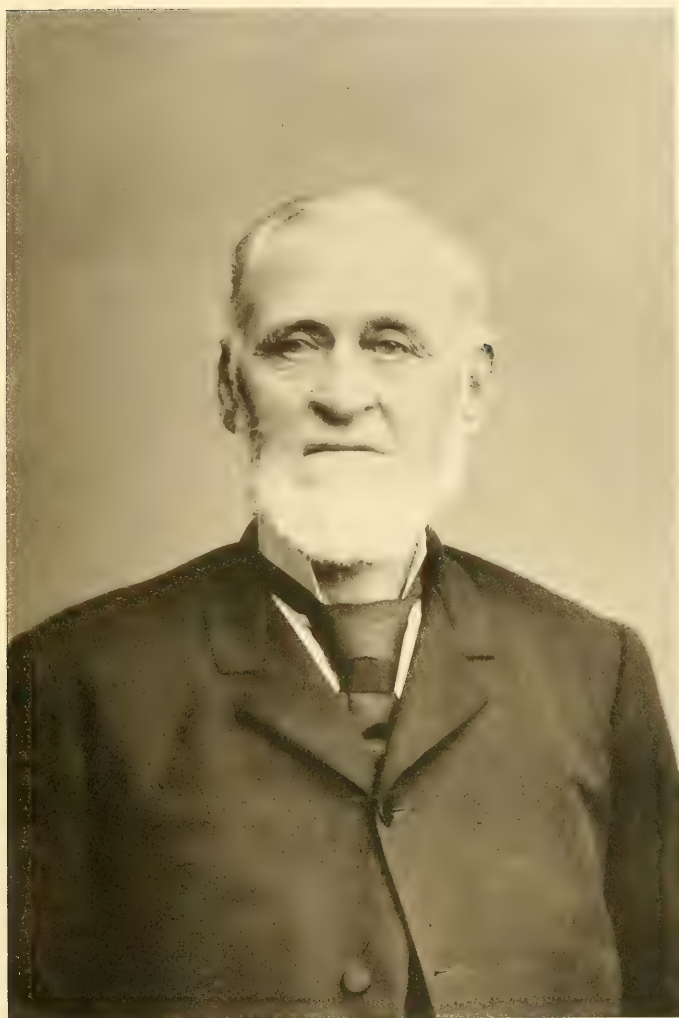
On the 14th of November, 1855, Mr. Sanger married Miss Mary J., daughter of Benjamin Bacon, Esq., of Plainfield, and has two daughters, Olive Douglas and Hattie Bacon Sanger, who reside with their parents at Canterbury.

DARIUS WOOD.—Levi Wood, the grandfather of Darius Wood, removed from Swansea, Massachusetts, to Foster, Rhode Island, where for years he followed his trade of stone mason. By his union with a Miss Mason were born children: Nathan, Levi, Jr., Wheaton, Ira, Olney, Albert, Hiram, Polly, Delight, Huldah, Louisa, and one who died in youth. Levi, Jr., was born in 1795 in Foster, and during the early period of his active life, com-

bined the trade of a mason with the employments of a farmer. On his removal at a later day to Canterbury, he was for years the landlord of the Canterbury Hotel. He married Sarah Randall, whose children were : Darius, Mason, Sarah Ann, wife of Harvey R. Dyer, and Victoria, who died in childhood.

Darius Wood was born February 3d, 1818, in Foster, Rhode Island, where his youth, until the age of sixteen, was spent at school. He then accepted a clerkship in Providence, remained two years thus employed, and at the expiration of that time removed with his father to Canterbury. The two succeeding years were spent on a farm leased by him, after which, on his permanent settlement in Canterbury, he embarked in the business of storekeeping. From thence Mr. Wood removed to Central Village and conducted the Central Company's store for a period of ten years. In 1864 he made Webster, Massachusetts, his home, and in company with a partner engaged in the dry goods and grocery business. The firm at a later date purchased a flouring mill at Greenfield, Indiana, which for ten years they operated successfully, when Mr. Wood having disposed of his interest in this property, continued in the grocery, flour and grain business in Webster. He fills the office of vice-president of the Webster Five Cent Savings Bank, and is largely identified with the business interests of the place. He has represented the districts of both Plainfield and Canterbury in the state legislature, but declined all municipal offices. He is a supporter of the Congregational church, of which Mrs. Wood is a member.

Mr. Wood was on the 19th of March, 1838, married to Clarinda E., daughter of Samuel Burlingame, of Killingly. Their children are : Irving, who is married to Mary M. Sherwood, of New York ; Courtlandt, now a resident of Dakota, and a daughter, Alice Victoria, who died in childhood.



Darius Wood

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE TOWN OF POMFRET.

Description.—The Wabbaquasset Country.—Purchase by Roxbury Men.—The Mashamoquet Tract.—Blackwell's Purchase.—The Mortlake Patent.—The Mashamoquet Purchase Allotted.—Town Privileges Obtained.—Indian War.—Settlers and Settlement.—Progress.—The Town Fully Organized.—Mortlake Management.—Mashamoquet Proprietors.—Increasing Population.—Prosperity of the Settlement.—Good Health of the People.—Slow Progress of Mortlake.—Inhabitants in 1731.—Abington Society Erected.—Mortlake Transferred to New Proprietors.—Social Character of the People.—Business Fluctuations.—Literary Movements.—Libraries.—Pomfret Hall.—Schools.—Roads and Bridges.—Improvements in the Quinebaug.—Great Thoroughfares.—Ecclesiastical History.—First Society and Church.—Disturbing Controversies.—Baptist Church.—Christ Church.—Quakers.—Methodists.—Roman Catholic Church.—Pomfret Landing.—Biographical Sketches.

THE town of Pomfret is one of the central towns of Windham county, lying a little north of the geographical center. It is surrounded by its sister towns, Woodstock on the north, Putnam and Killingly on the east, Brooklyn on the south, Hampton on the southwest, and Eastford on the west. Its original territory has been diminished by contributions toward Brooklyn on the south, Hampton on the southwest, and Putnam on the northeast. Its present dimensions are about six miles square, with irregular excesses of a mile in the southeast part, and a mile and a half upon the northwest corner of Brooklyn. Its area is about forty square miles. The surface of the town is hilly and rolling, but a large part of it presents a good soil and is well adapted for profitable culture. The Quinebaug river, which flows along the southern half of the eastern boundary, receives the Mashamoquet, which drains a large part of the surface of this town. The New York and New England railroad crosses the town diagonally from southwest to northeast, affording stations at Elliotts, Abington and Pomfret Centre. Each of these localities has a post office and the town contains other post offices, Pomfret and Pomfret Landing. The main village, known

as Pomfret Street, is located on a beautifully commanding hill in the northern part of the town. The wide old street, lined with majestic shade trees and borders of the richest verdure, is filled with homes that speak from their neatness and luxurious furnishings, of peaceful, refreshing, health giving rest and enjoyments which they must afford to those whom fortune has favored with a resting place within them.

Agriculture is the chief support of this town. In later years its attractions have been discovered by city people who have adopted the habit of coming hither for a breathing spell in the heated season of the year. Manufacturing has never gained a foothold to any extent within the present limits of the town. Its beginnings at the northeast corner of the town, which were later included in the town of Putnam, will be noticed elsewhere. Its streams afford many sites for mills, and these have been utilized for grinding grain and sawing timber. Saw mills are operated by Joshua Angell, Joseph H. Bacon, William H. Braman, Lucien N. Holmes, Samuel Lynn and Horace Sabin. Grist mills run by Fremont Bruce, William Brayton and G. H. Sessions.

The population of Pomfret at different periods has been: in 1756, 1,727; in 1775, 2,306; in 1800, 1,802; in 1820, 2,042; in 1840, 1,868; in 1870, 1,488; in 1880, 1,470. The grand list showed: in 1723, £5,588; in 1775, £27,711; in 1800, \$55,154; in 1845, \$30,751; in 1857, \$32,820; in 1887, \$801,711.

The territory occupied by Pomfret was included in the Wabbaquasset country, and came into the possession of Major Fitch in 1684. A number of Roxbury men having heard favorable reports of the land lying southward in Connecticut, opened negotiations with Major Fitch, and purchased 15,100 acres to be located by their choice in the Wabbaquasset country near the line of the Nipmuck country. The deed of this sale bore date May 1st, 1686, and the grantees named in it were Samuel Ruggles, Sr., John Chandler, Sr., Benjamin Sabin, John Grosvenor, Samuel Ruggles, Jr., and Joseph Griffin. A stipulation of the transfer deed was that within three years the ground should be chosen and that it should be owned in fourteen equal shares, twelve of which should be held by the grantees and two by Major Fitch. May 30th the deed was confirmed by the consent and signature of Owaneco and Josiah, his eldest son and heir. Six other proprietors who were admitted to make the required twelve were John Pierpont, John White, John Ruggles, John

Gore, Samuel Gore and Thomas Mowry. These twelve were then residents of Roxbury, Mass.

During the summer of 1686 the tract was located on the Mashamoquet river, and the name of that river was applied to the tract. A patent for a township, including this purchase and land adjacent, was granted by the Governor and Company of Connecticut, July 8th, 1686, to John Blackwell, James Fitch, Samuel Craft, Nathaniel Wilson and their associates for this new plantation in the Wabbaquasset country.

Land south of the Mashamoquet purchase was sold by Major Fitch to Captain Blackwell, of England, a noted Puritan and a friend of the commonwealth, son-in-law of General Lambert, treasurer of Cromwell's army and member of parliament during his administration. In 1685, the general court of Massachusetts granted him a tract of land eight miles square, "in behalf of himself and several other worthy gentlemen of England," and also a share in the new township of Oxford, but he decided to settle his colony within the wilds of Connecticut and secured from Major Fitch, May 28th, 1686, a deed of five thousand seven hundred and fifty acres of land, "containing the Newichewanna hills and other lands adjoining, lying west of the Quinebaug and south of Tamonquas, *alias* Mashamoquet river." This land was confirmed to him "after he made his choice," November 11th, 1686, by Major Fitch, Owaneco and Josiah, in presence of Hez. Usher, William Blackwell, Thomas Hooker and John Hubbard—the Mashamoquet proprietors and other patentees of the newly granted townships, agreeing "That Blackwell's part of 5,750 acres, situated in the southeast angle thereof, shall be accounted a separate tract by and of itself, to hold to him his heirs and assigns, so that neither the rest of the purchasers nor their survivors or heirs shall challenge to have, hold or enjoy any joynt or separate interest, title, power or jurisdiction or privilege of a township, or otherwise, howsoever, within the same from henceforth for ever." But even this provision for the independence of his projected colony did not satisfy Captain Blackwell, and October 19th, 1687, he secured from the general court of Connecticut, confirmation of his purchase, and also a patent for a separate township including it, to be laid out south of Mashamoquet brook, six miles from east to west and seven miles from north to south—the five thousand acre tract to be an entire town, called Mortlake. This name was given by Captain Blackwell in

memory of the village of Mortlake in Surrey, England, the residence of General Lambert and a favorite resort of Cromwell's followers.

The purchasers of these tracts were desirous to enter upon immediate possession. The Mashamoquet proprietors were first in the field, and on March 9th, 1687, met together to consult upon the settlement of their purchase. Public affairs were then very threatening; a revolution was imminent and delay was apprehended to be of dangerous consequence. Half the land was to be at once laid out; Major Fitch had already received 1,080 acres, east side of the purchase, and each of the purchasers were now to have each 540 acres laid out to him, and the remainder to be equally divided among the twelve proprietors and Major Fitch.

Before this division was effected, Andross assumed the government of Connecticut, and attempts to appropriate the purchase were deferred till some years after his deposition. May 30th, 1693, the proprietors again met to make arrangements for distribution. Some changes and additions were found needful. The original south bound of the purchase was a line run due west from the mouth of the Mashamoquet, but as Captain Blackwell had been allowed that river, with all its meerings and veerings, for his northern boundary, they were obliged to conform to it, and thus lost a portion of their territory. It was voted, "That a line be run west side of the tract, to take in as much land as Captain Blackwell has taken out of the southeast corner, and that two or three of the best parcels be taken up and sub-divided so that each may have one-half his dues, being five hundred and forty acres." The survey and divisions were accomplished during the winter, and on March 27th, 1694, nearly eight years after the date of purchase, the several proprietors received their allotments in the following order: 1, Esther Grosvenor; 2, Thomas Mowry; 3, John Ruggles; 4, John Gore; 5, Samuel Gore's heirs; 6, Samuel Ruggles; 7, John Chandler; 8, Jacob, Benjamin and Daniel Dana; 9, Benjamin Sabin; 10, Thomas and Elizabeth Ruggles; 11, John White; 12, Joseph Griffin.

The purchase, as then laid out, extended from Woodstock line on the north through the center of the granted township. Its eastern bound ran through Bark meadow, east of the base of Prospect hill. Its western bound was not defined at this period.

The Mashamoquet purchase was thus ready for occupation, but the Indian war still delayed its settlement. The Wabbaquassets, scattered by King Philip's war, had returned after the settlement of Woodstock to their native haunts upon the Quinebaug and Mashamoquet, and though in the main friendly and peaceable, were sometimes persuaded to join with the savage Mohawks in bloody forays and incursions. It was in the time of this terrible peril and panic, when the Woodstock settlers were huddled together in garrison, and none of the Mashamoquet proprietors dared to take possession of their property, that one man had the courage to cross the line and establish himself in the northeast corner of Connecticut, within the limits of the granted township.

Captain John Sabin, the first known settler of the township of Pomfret, was a native of Rehoboth, and either brother or cousin to Benjamin Sabin of Woodstock. One hundred acres of land, "bounded north by Woodstock, west by Purchase, east by land between it and the Quinebaug River, south by land belonging to James Fitch," were conveyed by Fitch to Sabin for nine pounds, June 22d, 1691. How soon Captain Sabin took possession of this land is not indicated, but prior to the disturbances of 1696 he had built himself a house with fortifications, and gained much influence over the Indians. During the Indian war he rendered much service to the inhabitants of Woodstock, and also to the governments of Massachusetts and Connecticut, "by standing his ground," protecting the frontier and engaging his Indian neighbors in the service of the English.

During the Indian war the family of Captain Sabin were the only white inhabitants of the future Pomfret now known to us, though it is possible that Benjamin Sitton, styling himself of "Mashamoquet, in Nipmug Country," who purchased of the Danas in 1698 "fifty acres of wilderness land at a place called Mashamoquet, bounded west by Windham Rode," was also a resident. Some land sales were effected during this period. Land in the Quinebaug valley was sold to Sabin by Fitch and Owaneco. Two hundred acres, bounded north on Sabin's first purchase, the full breadth of the land, were sold by Major Fitch to Samuel Paine, of Rehoboth, in 1695. Philemon Chandler, of Andover, nephew of Deacon John Chandler, of Woodstock, purchased a Mashamoquet allotment of Thomas and Elizabeth Ruggles in 1696. After the close of the war sales multiplied and settlers

straggled in. Nathaniel Gary came to the new settlement probably as early as 1698, settling on land east of the purchase. The payment of twelve pounds secured him, in 1699, a deed of five hundred and fifty acres "southeast from Woodstock," in what was afterward called the Gary neighborhood. The land between the purchase and the Quinebaug, the whole length of the township, was owned by Major Fitch, who is said to have once offered it to John Grosvenor for fifteen pounds. His sons, John and Leicester, gave a much larger sum in 1698 for 400 acres of this valuable land, extending from the mouth of the Mashamoquet to a brook at the north end of the interval. Farms east of the purchase were sold by Major Fitch to Samuel Allen and Samuel Gray in 1699. Three hundred acres on the Quinebaug, just below its junction with the Mill river, are said to have been purchased from the Wabbaquasset proprietors at a very early date by Samuel Perrin, Benjamin Griggs and Peter Aspinwall, then of Woodstock, and were confirmed to them by Major Fitch on the payment of twelve pounds in 1702. The remaining land between the Quinebaug and the purchase, from Woodstock line to the mouth of the Mashamoquet, was purchased by Captain John Chandler for twenty pounds in 1701.

The first settlement within the limits was prior to 1700. One of the first settlers was Thomas Goodell, who, after a brief sojourn in Woodstock, bought land of Deacon Chandler in 1699. He is said to have come up alone to the new township to put up a house and prepare for his family, but that his wife became uneasy, took her spinning wheel in hand and came up to look for him in midwinter, and by the aid of teams and chance Woodstock travelers, made the long journey in safety. Mrs. Esther Grosvenor removed to Mashamoquet in 1700. Her eldest son, William, was graduated from Harvard in 1695, and had settled in Charlestown. Her other sons, John, Leicester, Joseph, Ebenezer and Thomas, and one daughter, Susanna, came with her to the new country. A noble inheritance awaited them, the fairest portion of Mashamoquet, embracing the site of the upper part of the present Pomfret village and the hills eastward and westward. The road to Hartford and Windham passed through their land, near their first residence, which was on the western declivity of Prospect hill, near the site afterward occupied by Colonel Thomas Grosvenor's mansion house. Susanna Grosvenor was married in 1702 to Joseph Shaw, of Stonington.

Their wedding, attended by the Reverend Josiah Dwight, is the first reported in Mashamoquet.

Philemon Chandler removed early in the century to his lot on the Wappaquians, in the south of the purchase. Deacon John Chandler, of Woodstock, died in 1702, leaving to his youngest son, Joseph, "the lot in Mashamoquet, lying upon the line, and, if he see cause, all the Mashamoquet lands." The one hundred and fourteen acres upon the line were valued in the appraisal of the goods at £20; two hundred acres on Mashamoquet brook, £12; purchase lands still undivided at £—. The lot on the Mashamoquet was purchased in 1704 by Nathaniel Sessions—probably son of Alexander Sessions, of Andover—who at once took possession of it. In 1705 the little settlement was strengthened by the accession of Deacon Benjamin Sabin, of Woodstock, with his sons, Benjamin, Stephen, Nehemiah, Ebenezer, Josiah and Jeremiah. Deacon Sabin selected for his homestead a farm adjoining Philemon Chandler's, and settled his sons on land purchased of Samuel Gore's heirs and others. In 1706 Joseph Chandler sold a hundred acres of land west of Sessions', on the Mashamoquet, to Richard Dresser, of Rowley, who conveyed the same the following year, together with a small dwelling house built upon it, to Abiel Lyon, of Woodstock. Mr. Lyon at once occupied this dwelling, and set up a saw mill on the Mashamoquet. Joseph Chandler married in 1708 Susanna Perrin, of Woodstock, and settled on the "lot on the line," bequeathed him by his father. Part of this land, and other land bordering on Woodstock, were purchased and occupied by Edward Payson, of Roxbury, in 1708. Ebenezer Truesdell, after a short residence in the Quinebaug valley, bought land and a house of Thomas Goodell, in the southwest part of the purchase, now included in Abington. In 1709, Joseph Tucker, Samuel Gates and John Hubbard also bought land and settled in the south part of the Mashamoquet purchase.

East of the purchase, settlement was also progressing. Eight hundred acres on the Quinebaug were purchased of the Grosvenors and Captain John Chandler, by John Lyon, of Woodstock, in 1705, and sold by him, with mansion house and barn, to James Danielson, of New Shoreham, for £155, in 1706. Mr. Danielson soon afterward bought land in Killingly, east of the Quinebaug, and seems to have resided in both settlements. The mill privilege of a small brook running into the Quinebaug, known as

Bark Meadow brook, was purchased by James Sawyer in 1709, who there built and carried on the first grist mill in the settlement. Samuel Warner and Samuel Taylor also settled in the Quinebaug valley, on land purchased from Danielson and Gary. Griggs' share of the Perrin land was secured by Samuel Paine, then of Woodstock, who, with his brother Seth, early settled in this vicinity.

The settlement of Mashamoquet was attended with comparatively few hardships. Its soil was good and easily subdued, its smooth hills bare of trees to a great extent, and covered with a rank, coarse native grass, resembling, it is said, a rye field in harvest time. In proof of the natural resources and fertility of this region, old settlers were wont to relate that a cow and calf left prior to settlement to forage for themselves through the winter were found in the spring, not only alive, but in excellent condition. Indians were numerous but not especially troublesome, though fortresses were maintained in various localities during the Indian wars. Various hunting and fishing privileges were claimed by them, and liberty to levy food and cider from the settlers. Mrs. Grosvenor, when alone, was once invaded by a company, who threatened to take the boiling meat from the pot, and made violent demonstrations, but were kept at bay by her broomstick till the arrival of her son, Ebenezer, who had gained much authority over them.

The first recorded public recognition of the Mashamoquet settlement was in 1708, when its inhabitants were invited to join with the selectmen of Woodstock and Killingly in petitioning for a road to Providence, and were also ordered by the general assembly to send in their list of polls and estates, that they might bear their proportion of rates and taxes. The estates were appraised at £920, but the list of polls was omitted. In 1709 "three men from Massamugget" were directed to join in a projected expedition against Canada, which failed of accomplishment. In 1710 a military company was organized, and about fifty males over sixteen years of age were reported in the settlement. John Sabin, its first and leading citizen, who had previously enjoyed the honorary title of captain, was now appointed lieutenant; Ebenezer Sabin, ensign; Ebenezer Grosvenor, sergeant; James Sawyer, cornet.

In 1713 efforts were made to secure town organization, and the following inhabitants and proprietors petitioned the assem-

bly for a charter: Benjamin Sabin, John Sabin, Nathaniel Gary, Benjamin Sitton, Samuel Gates, Edward Payson, Samuel Paine, Seth Paine, John Cummings, Samuel Warner, Thomas Goodell, Philemon Chandler, Daniel Allen, David Allen, Joseph Tucker, Samuel Taylor, Leicester Grosvenor, Ebenezer Grosvenor, Benjamin Sabin, Jr., Jeremiah Sabin, Stephen Sabin, Ebenezer Sabin, Josiah Sabin, Ebenezer Truesdell, Benjamin Goodell, Joseph Sabin, Nathaniel Sessions, Josiah Sessions, John Hubbard, Thomas Grosvenor, Joseph Grosvenor, James Danielson, Abiel Lyon, Samuel Gary, Joseph Chandler, David Bishop.

The town was organized under the name of Pomfret, in accordance with the charter, at a meeting held May 27th, 1713. Lieutenant Sabin, Sergeant Grosvenor and Ensign Sabin were elected selectmen for the new township; Philemon Chandler, clerk. The first object of the town was to secure a more accurate determination of its boundary. A survey was ordered, and completed March 20th, 1714. The bounds of the town, as then laid down, began at a stake by Quinebaug river between the upper and lower falls, thence south seven miles, thence east over the top of a hill called "Gray Mare," to the Quinebaug, its eastern bound. The manor of Mortlake, and also part of the township granted to Captain Blackwell, were included within its limits. Before proceeding with the history of Pomfret, it will be necessary to gain more definite knowledge of this part of its territory and the Blackwell township.

Mortlake, as we have already seen, was purchased by Captain or Sir John Blackwell, for the establishment of a colony of English and Irish dissenters, who were suffering from the oppression of King James. The course of public events frustrated this scheme. During the administration of Andross no settlement was possible, and after the revolution it was no longer needful. Religious liberty under William and Mary could be enjoyed in Great Britain, and Blackwell himself soon returned to his native land, making no attempt to settle or improve his purchase; and thus for nearly thirty years Mortlake was left a wilderness. The land adjoining it, included in the township granted to Captain Blackwell, accrued to Major Fitch as a part of the Wabbaquasset country. A tract two miles square in its southwest corner was taken from him in 1695 by Simon Stoddard, of Boston, in execution of judgment for debt.

The Mashamoquet proprietors still had the entire control of

their lands, even though they lay within the bounds of the new town of Pomfret, and indeed comprised more than half of the area of that town. A second division of land among these proprietors was made in 1719. At that time some changes had been made in the proprietors. John Sabin was in possession of the right of Samuel Ruggles; Joseph Chandler, in that of Deacon John Chandler; John Mowry, in that of Thomas Mowry; Ebenezer Sabin, in that of Deacon Benjamin Sabin; and Captain John Chandler, in that of Samuel Gore. The distribution of lands to the proprietors, about four hundred acres to each share, was made in the western part of the town, and was later included in the parish of Abington.

The opening of new territory was followed by a fresh influx of population. Sales and transfers of land became more frequent, and many families were added to the settlement. Jonathan Hide, William Hamlet, Abiel Cheney, Jonathan Dana, Archibald McCoy, Ebenezer Holbrook, Jehoshaphat Holmes, Samuel Perrin and Daniel Waldo appear as residents of Pomfret, prior to 1720; William Sharpe, Samuel Sumner, John and James Ingalls, soon after that date. Hide bought purchase land of Truesdell; Hamlet removed from Woburn to an allotment laid out to Samuel Ruggles, comprising the hill still known as Hamlet's; Cheney's first residence was south of Mashamoquet, on land bought of Major Fitch, east of Newichewanna brook; Holmes was still farther southward. McCoy's homestead was the fifth lot of the square, bought of Captain John Sabin in 1716; Waldo's, east side of the highway, farther northward, on land bought of Captain Chandler. A beautiful triangular farm, bordering on the Mashamoquet, laid out first to Samuel Gore and sold successively to Captain John Chandler, Thomas Hutchinson and Francis Clark, was purchased by John Holbrook, of Roxbury, whose son, Ebenezer, took possession of it in 1719. The Perrin farm on the Quinebaug, early secured by Samuel, of Woodstock, was occupied first by his son Samuel, who there built, it is said, in 1714, the fine mansion so long known as the "old Perrin House." Jonathan Dresser, brother to Richard, of Nashaway, bought land of Nathaniel Gray in 1717. About 1720, William Sharpe, with his wife Abigail, daughter of John White, one of the original proprietors of Mashamoquet, and their seven sons, three daughters and a daughter's husband—Samuel Gridley—removed to Pomfret, settling upon a second-division lot between Goodell's and

Grosvenor's, in what is the north part of Abington. Two years later, Samuel Sumner, son of George Sumner, of Roxbury, took possession of the sixth lot of the square, purchased of Captain Sabin—building his house near the site of the present Quaker meeting house, and marrying Elizabeth Griffin, probably daughter of Joseph, the Mashamoquet proprietor. The young Ingalls brothers, who came up with their widowed mother, Hannah Ingalls, from Andover, bought a second-division lot in the southwest of the purchase, and made them a home in the depths of the wilderness. Joseph Craft appears at about this date as a resident of the west part of Pomfret. It is quite possible that his land was secured by an early grant from Major Fitch, as the name of Samuel Craft appears among the original grantees of the town and no subsequent deed has been discovered. Some sales of land were also made to non-residents. Several tracts were sold by Captain Chandler to Jonathan Waldo, of Boston. Eight hundred acres of second-division land, south of the Mashamoquet and west of Newichewanna brook were sold by Major Fitch, in 1714, to John Dyer, of Canterbury, and by him conveyed to Colonel Thomas Fitch, of Boston. The strip of land west of the purchase, embracing about two thousand acres, was made over by Major Fitch to his son Daniel in 1719.

These new inhabitants of Pomfret were mostly men of character and property, and at once identified themselves with the growth of the town. Jehoshaphat Holmes was soon chosen town clerk, Samuel Gridley served as clerk both for town and proprietors, Abiel Cheney was licensed as tavern keeper, Sharpe, Holbrook and other new inhabitants were appointed to various public services, and "Father Coy" opened his house for public meetings. Efforts had long been made to secure better traveling communication with Providence, the most accessible market town for this section. The existing bridle path could not accommodate teams or vehicles. The movement was initiated in 1708, and the road completed and opened in 1721, under the supervision of Nathaniel Sessions, who himself brought over it the first load of West India goods to Pomfret. The road, like the path preceding it, crossed the Quinebaug just below the falls at the old fording place first opened by Peter Aspinwall, who soon after 1700, begged the privilege of building a bridge there. Captain John Sabin, with the aid of his son, constructed a substantial bridge "over the Quinebaug at ye falls

near Pomfret, in 1722." Joshua Ripley and Timothy Pierce were appointed by the general court to view the bridge, and reported it "built in a suitable place, out of danger of being carried away by floods or ice, the highth of the bridge being above any flood yet known to any man living there, and think it will be very serviceable to a great part of the government in traveling to Boston, being at least ten miles the nearest way according to their judgment." The cost of this bridge was £120, for which three hundred acres of land in the common lands, on the east side of Connecticut river, were allowed to Captain Sabin, "on condition he keep the same in repair fourteen years next coming." Various minor matters were considered and settled. A rate of three pounds was allowed for procuring weights and measures and a black staff. A penny a head was allowed for destroying blackbirds, twopence for squirrels, woodpeckers and blue jays, and twopence a tail for rattlesnakes.

Pomfret, for a time, was so remarkably healthy that, in five years, the only deaths occurring were those of three infants, so that the burial ground by the meeting house was scarcely made use of. In 1719, the town voted "That the burying place be removed to a more convenient place," and accepted the gift of two acres of land for this use and service, bounded north by Wappaquians brook and east by the highway, from Deacon Philemon Chandler. The first person interred in the new ground is believed to have been Joseph Griffin, one of the original Mashamoquet proprietors, in 1723. He was followed, in 1725, by Deacon Benjamin Sabin, an early Woodstock pioneer, and one of the most useful and respected citizens of Pomfret.

Mortlake, during this period, made little progress. Houses were built within the manors, and part of the land brought under cultivation. Wiltshire was rented to Henry Earle. Five hundred acres in Kingswood were leased by Mr. Belcher to Isaiah and Thompson Wood, of Canterbury. That Belcher even made a summer residence of his farms, is extremely doubtful. William Williams purchased of Belcher a farm west of Wiltshire, in 1719, and took immediate possession of it. His family, with those of Belcher's tenants, were probably for many years the only white inhabitants of Mortlake.

The listed inhabitants and proprietors of Pomfret in 1731 numbered over one hundred. Omitting those who lived in the south part, afterward Brooklyn, and the non-residents, the

list included the following: On the purchase, Major John Sabin, Mrs. Elizabeth Grosvenor, Leicester Grosvenor, Edward Payson, Joseph Griffin, William Sharpe, Zachariah Waldo, Thomas Goodell, John Weld, Abiel Lyon, John Sharpe, Benjamin Griffin, Deacon Philemon Chandler, John Parkhurst, Ebenezer Sabin, Jeremiah Sabin, Deacon Benjamin Sabin, Captain Joseph Chandler, Joseph Grosvenor, Edward McCoy, Nehemiah Sabin, Ebenezer Truesdell, Timothy Sabin, Joseph Tucker, Samuel Sumner, John Shaw, Philemon Chandler, Jr., Joseph Sabin, Josiah Sabin, Benjamin Sabin, Peter Sabin, William Sabin, Isaac Dana, Jacob Dana, Thomas Goodell, Solomon Sharpe, Nathaniel Sessions, Joseph Dana, Humphrey Goodell, Zachariah Goodell; residents and proprietors east of purchase: Major Sabin, Noah Sabin, Samuel Paine, Seth Paine, Jonathan Dresser, Samuel Perrin, James Taylor, William Gary, David Howe, Nathaniel Johnson, James Sawyer, Jonathan Lyon, Benjamin Sanger, Samuel Gary, Samuel Carpenter, Henry Taylor, Thomas Mighill, William Short, Stephen Paine, Penuel Deming, Isaac Bacon, Daniel Bacon, Matthew Davis, Noah Upham; residents west of purchase were: David Stowell, John Ingalls, Benjamin Chaplin, Thomas Durkee, Nathaniel Stowell, Samuel Kimball, Daniel Allen, Samuel Allen, Thomas Grow, Caleb Abbot, Benjamin Allen, Jonathan Stowell.

Population had now diffused itself throughout the township. Thomas Grow's settlement was near the Windham line, now included in the town of Hampton. A large tract of the land west of the purchase was owned and occupied by John Stowell. A farm in this vicinity was purchased by Joseph Bowman, of Dorchester, in 1731. His stepson, Daniel Trowbridge, bought of Abiel in 1734, a farm of a hundred acres bordering on Mashamoquet. Major John Sabin, the first settler of Pomfret, and long its most prominent citizen, died in 1743, leaving three sons, John, Hezekiah and Noah, and a daughter, Judith, wife of Joseph Leavens. The farm north of the meeting house, owned by Jonathan Waldo, passed into the hands of one of his heirs, Zachariah Waldo, of Windham, in 1733, who soon took personal possession.

The peace and prosperity of Pomfret during this period were only marred by its relations with Mortlake, which were in every way uncomfortable and unsatisfactory. The intrusion of a distinct, independent township within its borders was a

great detriment and inconvenience, especially as the intruder was wholly without organization and proper government. Residents without rights or responsibilities were not always manageable or agreeable. Mortlake had no town government. The position of this anomalous township was becoming more and more uncomfortable; a manor without a lord; a town without organization or officers; its inhabitants regarded as aliens and intruders, with no rights in Pomfret and no privileges in Mortlake, and not even in capacity for lawful country-rate paying, an entire change in status and administration was imperatively demanded. The inhabitants of the section had never forgotten the town privileges accorded to Sir John Blackwell by the general court, and now again attempted to secure their confirmation. Pomfret, on the other hand, sought its annexation to her territory. Pomfret was at this time involved in sectional commotion, her western inhabitants seeking for society, her southern for town privileges, and said she would listen to neither. The assembly decided to erect the parish of Abington in 1748, and was unwilling to subject Pomfret to further curtailment. The petition for a township was positively rejected and the north half of Mortlake annexed to Pomfret's first society—a result that pleased no one but the inhabitants of that section, who preferred even this connection to total isolation. The grievances of the complex society were not in the least abated, while Pomfret was as much dissatisfied with her gain as with her losses, and vainly petitioned to have the north half of Mortlake removed from being part of her First society. In 1737 excessive rain, with boisterous winds, raised the streams higher than ever known, carried off bridges and greatly damaged Howe's grist mill. A barn filled with hay and stacks of grain, was struck by lightning and consumed in 1742. The following summer a violent hail storm did much damage in Pomfret and adjoining towns, breaking glass, blowing over a house and barns—"a melancholy time with many." At about the same time a mischievous old wolf was devastating farm-yards and sheep-folds. With these exceptions Pomfret enjoyed remarkable prosperity.

The grievances of Pomfret were somewhat relieved in 1739 by the transfer of Mortlake into the hands of new proprietors. The south part of Wiltshire was sold by Governor Belcher to Israel Putnam and John Pope, both of Salem. In the course

of the year Putnam purchased Pope's share and took personal possession of Wiltshire manor. In the following year all that remained of Belcher's land purchase, viz., the north part of Wiltshire, the whole of Kingswood, and twelve hundred acres in forest and meadow, were sold by him for \$10,500 to Godfrey Malbone, a prominent merchant of Newport. Malbone purchased much other land in the vicinity of Williams, Cobb and others, but made no immediate attempt at settlement. The manorial status of Mortlake was unchanged by this transfer of ownership, but its owners were accessible and its land more open for improvement.

In 1742 it was voted by the society, "That the burial place shall be fenced with a stone wall, at the direction and discretion of the standing committee." Tavern licenses were now granted to Joseph Dana, Zachariah Waldo, Alexander Sessions and Benjamin Hubbard—Waldo living near the meeting house, the others in the east, west and south parts of the town. Samuel Nightingale was chosen town and society clerk in 1745, upon the death of Jehoshaphat Holmes, who had long faithfully discharged those offices.

Twenty years later we find Pomfret a very thriving and prosperous township, with three well-established, self-supporting religious societies, and the once lawless and irregular Mortlake peacefully incorporated within her borders and made amenable to lawful rate-paying and road-making. The inhabitants of the three parishes united harmoniously in promoting the general interests of the town, and bore proportionate share of public charges and services.

Much of the land was still held by descendants of the original proprietors. Nine hundred acres originally laid out to Thomas Mowry descended to Miss Elizabeth Pierpont, of Boston, who took personal possession after her marriage with Captain Peter Cunningham, building a substantial dwelling house near the Mashamoquet. Part of this land was already laid out in farms and occupied by Benjamin Craft and other tenants. Land in the south part of the society, afterward known as Jericho, was occupied prior to 1760 by descendants of William Sharpe. The venerable Nathaniel Sessions, long the last survivor of the first settlers of Pomfret, died in 1771.

The heavy burden borne by Windham county through the wearisome French and Indian wars was not without its compen-

sations. Stringent compulsory demands called out the energies of the towns and developed their resources. Wider experiences and the stimulating discipline of camp and battle made stronger men of those engaged in warfare, and fitted them for greater usefulness at home. No town was more favored in this respect than Pomfret. Her sons greatly distinguished themselves in the war, and returned to engage, with zeal and fidelity, in the service of town and county. At the annual meeting of the town, December 1st, 1760, many of these returned soldiers were elected to town offices.

About the revolutionary period and after, society in Pomfret was very brilliant, but had the reputation of exclusiveness. Some of the new families affected a superior style of living. The old established families had also fine houses and furniture, and were thought by their plainer neighbors to live in great magnificence. Many distinguished visitors from abroad were entertained at these fine mansion houses. Fashionable belles and beaux came up from Providence and Newport. John Hancock improved his purchase for a summer country seat, and brought thither many distinguished strangers from Boston. Visits were exchanged between these notabilities; balls and dancing parties were given. Pomfret assemblies became very famous and fashionable, and drew together all the *elite* of the vicinity. The airs and graces of the assembled gentry, and the aristocratic assumption of some families, excited the ridicule of the country people, and led some local wit to affix to the fashionable quarter the derisive sobriquet of "*Pucker Street*," by which it was long distinguished. Several fine houses had been built upon this beautiful street, and the elm trees set out by Oliver Grosvenor and the banished Frink, were already its pride and ornament. The present "Eldredge house" was completed by Colonel Thomas Grosvenor in 1792. Its raising was accompanied by great mirth and festivity—a young Indian delighting the crowd by *dancing* upon its *ridgepole*.

The poor were carefully maintained. Bidding them off at a vendue was little practiced in Pomfret. In 1788 a house was hired for their accommodation, and Doctor Jared Warner appointed their physician in all cases, his services to offset his taxes of every kind. The selectmen were ordered the following year to make the best disposition of the poor for their comfort and the least expense to the town, by putting them to one man or other.

wise, as they should think proper, and to be vigilant in putting out all vagrants and idle persons that were found residing in the town and not legal inhabitants. In 1794 it was voted to build a house for the poor, and Deacon Robert Baxter and Mr. Joseph Chandler were chosen to superintend the care of the poor. The house was not erected for two years, when it was further ordered to be built on land belonging to the town, to be sixty feet long and fourteen wide, one story high with two stacks of chimneys, two cellars and four rooms. Selectmen were required to take care of the poor after their removal to the town house. "The house of Col. Calvin Day" was made a work house in 1824. Elisha B. Perkins, Darius Mathewson and Lemuel Ingalls were directed to consider the condition of the poor, and consult with other towns.

Pomfret suffered serious declension after the loss of her factory, but revived with the opening of the New York & New England railroad, which accommodates her with three stations and a great influx of company. The pleasant scenery and fine old trees and farm houses of this picturesque town are more and more appreciated, and it is becoming a favorite and fashionable resort. Families from many cities enjoy the coolness and comforts of these airy homes. This summary demand has greatly quickened agricultural enterprise. A flourishing Farmers' Club has been instituted, which discusses improved methods of farming, and puts them in practice. Intelligent and capable men give their time, energies and thoughts to farm work, which has resulted in increased products and profits, and a higher standard of agricultural attainment throughout the town. Pomfret dairies have gained a higher repute, and her "model farms" excite wonder and imitation. Pomfret is also gaining permanent residents. Children of her old families come back to the old haunts and hearthstones, and strangers after a summer's sojourn, return perhaps to build villas and mansions of their own. Elegant residences going up on sightly hill and shady nook attest the increasing popularity of the town. The tasteful "Pomfret Hall," recently erected, manifests the public spirit of its citizens, and their efforts to provide suitable entertainment for guests and stranger sojourners, while its book clubs and library associations show that they have not outgrown their literary proclivities.

Pomfret has been foremost in the interest manifested in lit-

erary acquirements and especially in the promotion of what culture a public library can bring to a people. In 1739 "The United English Library for the Propagation of Christian and Useful Knowledge" was established here, the citizens of Woodstock, Mortlake, Killingly and the west part of Thompson joining with those of Pomfret in laying its foundations. The society numbered thirty-four members, who subscribed various sums from ten to forty pounds. The sum expended for books at the start was about £418. The first books were obtained in 1840, and a larger number were added in the following year. The affairs of the society were well managed by a faithful and efficient committee, and its membership in time embraced all the leading men of the township. Pomfret's library became one of her most cherished institutions, and maintained and extended her reputation for intelligence and culture.

In June, 1745, the library and its society were divided so as to allow the Woodstock and Killingly people to have their part nearer at home, while Pomfret kept on with its library and association under the same general regulations except as to territorial limitations. For many years the library exercised an influence in favor of higher intelligence and culture in this community. As the old members passed away new members joined it from time to time, so that the interest seemed unabated. It may have been due to the influence of this library that in 1755 eight young men of this town entered Yale College, and three others followed soon after, so that there were eleven Pomfret youths in that institution at one time. Nine of them became ministers and achieved respectable positions, and another became a teacher. In 1775 an offshoot from this was established in Brooklyn society, with a hundred volumes.

The United Library was reorganized at the close of the war. It numbered then about fifteen members. The preponderance of theological and dogmatic books in the collection was detrimental to its popularity, and it now fell into a decline, while the reading people to a large extent thirsted for something lighter, more entertaining, and more in the line of their practical thoughts. To this end a Social Library was formed in 1793, which brought in works of a lighter character, more attractive to the general reader; but this failed to meet the wants of still a large class, and so, in 1804, a Farmers' Library was instituted. The last recorded meeting of the

"Proprietors of the United Library in Pomfret for Propagating Christian and Useful Knowledge" was held February 12th, 1805, when the librarian was directed "to call upon the Proprietors to return the books into the Library agreeably to the original Covenant."

The library is still maintained. In more recent years the interest in it has revived, and it has been enlarged, and is now one of the institutions of which Pomfret society is justly proud. It is well taken care of, being accommodated with a room in Pomfret Hall. The library now numbers some two thousand volumes.

Pomfret Hall is a handsome building, standing on the east side of classic Pomfret street, just a little north of the Episcopal church. It is one story high, and having its auditorium on the ground floor, is easy of access. A covered drive way for carriages to the front allows approach and departure without exposure to storms. The hall was built by subscription, and is used for entertainments, lectures and other public gatherings. Religious meetings are sometimes held in it. The hall is one of the finest to be found in a country-side place like this, and sustains the reputation for progressive culture and refinement for which Pomfret has for generations been noted.

In the matter of schools Pomfret, in its early existence, showed great remissness, making no provision for them until January 28th, 1720, when the town voted to have a school house. Its location was to be near the meeting house and its size 19 by 24 feet. In 1723 the house was completed and schools established in the north, south and center of the town about the same time. In the course of a decade the diffusion of population throughout the town made more schools needful. As several families, by reason of distance, could have no benefit of the schools already established, it was granted by the town that upon the application of any number of families to the selectmen, they should at their discretion accommodate them with a school at any part of the town. In 1733 four schools were ordered, "one at the sign-post; one at the end of Samuel Dana's lane; one at Noah Upham's, and one west of Mashamoquet Brook, just at going over the bridge by Lyon's mill."

After the division of the town into three societies—Pomfret, Brooklyn and Abington—school as well as church matters were settled in the society meetings. The Pomfret society now com-

prised only the north part of the town. The first meeting of this as a society distinct from other parts of the town was held in December, 1731. In 1732 it was agreed that there should be one standing school, kept by a schoolmaster six months in the winter season, midway upon the road leading from Woodstock to Mr. Williams's bridge, and the other half of the year be kept by schooldames in the four quarters of the society. In 1733 four schools were allowed through the winter, and "as the north part about the sign-post hath built themselves a house," it was now agreed "That the other parts should provide school houses for themselves." In 1755 the society was divided into four school districts, each of which provided its own school house and master.

The number of children in this town of school age—four to sixteen years—in 1858 was 415; in 1881, 292; in 1887, 287. The town is divided into nine districts, and the enumeration of 1888 showed 282 children of school age.

One of the first needs that Pomfret felt after the meeting house had been built, was for a way to get to it. Roads were not laid out at the start and the attention of the people was now turned toward this deficiency. Within the bounds of the purchase, which covered more than half the territory of the town, it belonged to the proprietors to provide them, but outside of those limits it belonged to the town. This arrangement was not satisfactory, as harmony of action was not always attainable. The proprietors, at a meeting in March, 1726, agreed to make over to the town all highways in the purchase. The town then went forward with the work of making roads and bridges as occasion and circumstances required. In 1731 a substantial cart bridge was built over the Mashamoquet at the saw mill, and a highway was laid out from it to Windham village. In 1788 a new road was laid out to Ashford, beginning "at a small fall in Mashamoquet brook, thirty rods below the old going-over to Ashford."

In 1770, Pomfret joined with Killingly in rebuilding what was known as "Danielson's bridge." In the following year, "Cargill's bridge" was rebuilt. Putnam was foremost in a movement for procuring a new road through Pomfret to Norwich and New Haven, but failed to secure it. Notwithstanding all the pains taken to secure easy communication with Providence, rendered so needful by intimate business and social relations, the road

thither was still very stony and rough, and the journey laborious. So late as 1776, when Mr. S. Thurber drove over it in the first chaise, he "could not ride out of a slow walk but very little of the way, and was near two days in going." Pomfret was much interested in a project for deepening the channel of the Quinebaug, so as to make it passable for boats, Ebenezer and John Grosvenor petitioning with citizens of other towns for this object. One of the first dams upon the Quinebaug was accomplished by Jabez Allen, near the mouth of Beaver's brook, about 1770. A large grist mill was here erected by him and carried on successfully for a few years. The laying out a public highway from Pomfret street to Cargill's mills gave the town a great deal of trouble. After the rejection of many proposed routes, the road "from Little bridge that crosses Mill river, leading to nigh the dwelling-house of Mr. Abraham Perrin," was established and recorded, May 14th, 1798. It was also voted to rebuild Mill River bridge and repair Cargill's bridge.

In the early part of the present century Pomfret was greatly agitated by the proposed construction of various turnpike roads through her territory. Progressive spirits favored these enterprises, but the heavy outlay and prospective imposts terrified a majority of the tax payers. At the first proposal "to lay out a road from Hartford towards Boston to the Massachusetts or Rhode Island line," the town appointed Colonel Lemuel Grosvenor, Lemuel Ingalls, Esq., and Captain Josiah Sabin, to make such preparations for surveying as would be necessary for information, and to wait upon the committees sent by the general court. In December, the town deferred acting upon raising money to pay assessments to individuals for road laid by state committee, and appointed Peter Chandler, Seth and Joshua Grosvenor to confer with neighboring towns respecting laying out a road from Hartford to Douglass, and for preparing a memorial for alteration of road or repeal of act. In the following year the town refused to raise money to pay assessments to the persons who waited upon them. When, in spite of their grumbling and resistance, the Boston and Hartford turnpike was actually completed through the whole length of the town, Lemuel Ingalls and Seth Grosvenor were appointed to have it altered in certain points and the expense lessened. All efforts proving unsuccessful, the town was reluctantly compelled to levy a tax of three and a half cents to meet expenses and pay assessments, but declined

to accept shares in the company or to allow Captain Sabin for attendance upon the committee. Projects for a new road in the west part of the town through Joseph Sharpe's land to Brooklyn, and for two other turnpikes, increased the town's ill humor. They would not view the different routes through Killingly nor do anything about it, and appointed agents to oppose the memorial of Sampson Howe and others, and also acceptance of a road laid out through Pomfret from Norwich to Massachusetts line, but were again obliged "to raise money to pay assessments made by state committee for said road." The Pomfret and Killingly turnpike was also carried through after much opposition and refusing to pay the cost of the jury that laid it, and in 1803, it agreed to build a bridge in company with the town of Killingly over Quinebaug river, south of Noah Perrin's—Caleb Trowbridge, Benjamin Durkee and Freeman James to build said bridge. It also voted to build a bridge across the stream near the burying ground, and also one on Mashamoquet "where the turnpike crosseth it where old road is discontinued." So great was the outlay caused by all these turnpikes and bridges that it was proposed to *sell* the newly constructed town house. Before accounts were settled another turnpike was demanded—a direct road from Providence to meet the Boston and Hartford turnpike in Ashford. Oliver Grosvenor and Sylvanus Backus were at once empowered to oppose this farther imposition. Surveys were, however, made and two routes offered for consideration. In 1806 the town voted that the north route by Samuel White's to Cotton's bridge would best accommodate town and public, and to oppose the route from said White's to the Landing, but as in previous cases they were forced to submit to road and taxes.

A new road was laid out to the Brick Factory, intersecting with the Woodstock and Thompson turnpike, in 1812, facilitating travel and trade with both those towns. A road was also cut through the woods over Park's hill in 1818, and the previous road pitching down to Bundy's mills discontinued. The financial affairs of the company were very flourishing. Yarn was sent out for weaving all over the country, even as far as Brimfield, Mass. A dividend of \$36,000 was made in one of the years of war, and so well established was the company that it was able to continue work during the succeeding embarrassments. Mr. Wilkinson was a strict disciplinarian, and looked carefully after the

morals of the community. At his especial request the Windham Association furnished "religious instruction" at stated intervals, holding meetings in the brick school house. A Pomfret Woolen Manufacturing Company was incorporated in 1817, and erected buildings upon the Mashamoquet, but it suffered severely from the great flood the following year, and other causes, and disbanded after a time with pecuniary loss to its associates. Bridges and dams at Pomfret Factory and Bundy's mills were carried away by that almost destructive freshet, which inflicted great damage upon all the manufacturing corporations of the country. The Killingly & Pomfret turnpike was discontinued after a time and the bridge built for its accommodation removed. The great flood of 1817 compelled the erection of new bridges at Pomfret Factory.

After receiving confirmation of bounds in 1713, one of the first things Pomfret did was to settle religious worship. The town, October 28th, voted to give an orthodox minister one hundred and fifty pounds toward buying land and building himself a house, and fifty-five pounds annual salary, until the town should contain sixty families. A committee was appointed to look for a minister. Reverend Ebenezer Williams was secured for six months. He boarded at the house of Captain John Sabin, in the northeast corner of the town. Religious services were held in some convenient private house. February 16th, 1714, the town gave Mr. Williams a call to settle permanently, offering him one hundred and seventy pounds for settlement and sixty pounds salary. He accepted the offer and entered upon the work. Two hundred acres of land that had been reserved for the encouragement of preaching were made over to Mr. Williams in June, 1714, by the Mashamoquet proprietors. Work was now begun upon a meeting house, which the town in December previous had voted to build "with all convenient speed." The frame was raised April 27th, and it was covered during the summer. It stood on the east side of the road, about a quarter of a mile south of the spot where the present Congregational church stands. A burial plot was set apart adjacent to it. The house was completed so far as to be opened for public use in autumn. Privileges were granted to build pews in specified parts of the house. Mr. Belcher was granted the privilege of building a pew on the west end of the pulpit, next to it, which privilege he probably never exercised.

A church was organized with eleven male members, October 26th, 1715, and Mr. Williams was at the same time ordained pastor over it. An ordination dinner was ordered for the occasion, sufficient for forty guests from abroad. The expense of the dinner was ten pounds. In 1716 the meeting house was fenced in, and the privilege was granted Nathaniel Gray to build a "Sabba-day house" in the highway near the meeting house, for himself and his family. The "Sabba-day house" was an institution of that period, common in many parts of New England, though this is the only instance of any record of them in Windham county which we have discovered. It was a small house with a good fireplace and chimney, in which a few persons could sit and warm themselves, and eat their lunch, when they had come a long distance to church and wished to stay through both morning and afternoon services. A good fire was kept up, and from the coals thus accumulated their "foot-stoves" were filled to carry into the meeting house to help them keep warm during the long service, there being no fire kept in the meeting house other than what was carried in in the foot-stoves. Sometimes a single family owned a "Sabba-day house," and sometimes a few families joined in building one. Sometimes a number of them might be seen in the neighborhood of a single church. In 1722 the inhabitants were given liberty to build stables for themselves near the north side of the meeting house. In 1719 Mr. Jonathan Belcher appears to have offered the town a bell for their church, and straightway they vote "That there shall be a bell cony built at one end of the meeting house." But for some unexplained reason the bell did not arrive. In 1729 the church had fifty male members. Mr. Williams was greatly respected at home and abroad, and his counsel was sought in many difficulties throughout the colony. In 1731 he was chosen Fellow of Yale College.

The religious disturbances which attended the Separate movement in the middle part of the last century seemed to make but little if any impression upon the First church of Pomfret. No record is left of any agitation or loss to this church during that period that can be attributed to the elements spoken of. Mr. Williams died March 28th, 1753, thus closing a term of pastoral service with this church extending through nearly forty years. This blow came to the people at a time when they were somewhat discomfited over the removal of much of their for-

mer strength by the division of the town into three distinct societies. A re-organization of the society and church, and the building of a new meeting house and settlement of a minister were questions which confronted them.

Reverend Noadiah Russel, of Middletown, preached through the summer of 1753, and October 16th, was called to the pastorate. The pay offered him was £1,500 for settlement, and £650 a year salary. These figures look large for that period, but their magnitude is easily explained away by the recollection that the currency at that time was highly inflated. At that time it took three pounds ten shillings to be equal to a dollar in value. Mr. Russel accepted the terms, but before ordination took place a disagreement arose in regard to church discipline, and in the early part of 1755 Mr. Russel withdrew. Reverend Aaron Putnam was next called, and he was ordained March 10th, 1756. The frame of a new meeting house, after long discussion in regard to its site, was raised September 5th, 1760, on the home lot of Zachariah Waldo, where two acres had been purchased for the purpose. The size of the house was sixty feet long, forty-eight feet wide, and twenty-four feet "stud." It was probably completed during that and the following year. Galleries were built around the sides of the house, a high pulpit and massive canopy was erected, and the outside of the house "cullered" in the most approved fashion of the day. The main body color was orange, with trimmings of chocolate on the doors and bottom boards, and white on the window frames, corner boards and barge and eaves boards. A preliminary lecture sermon, when the house was all completed, was given by Mr. Putnam, Thursday, January 20th, 1763. The old meeting house and training field adjacent were sold by order of the society, and liberty was granted to build sheds on the east line of the common, within four rods of Reverend Mr. Putnam's house.

While yet in the prime of life Mr. Putnam was in a great measure disabled by a failure of voice and physical weakness, which obliged him to seek the aid of a colleague. The young man invited to act in this capacity was Oliver Dodge, of Ipswich, a recent graduate of Harvard. While on probation here Mr. Dodge manifested at times an alarming license in speech and conduct, and unfavorable reports concerning him came from abroad, so that some objection was made to his ordination, on charges of disregard to truth, neglect of duty, irreverent ap-

plication of Scripture, and unbecoming levity. The council called April 19th, 1792, to ordain him, refused to do so, and later another council was called to consider the charges against him, which they found sustained. But despite the decision of the church court, the people had become so much attached to him that many refused to give him up, and a division was made in the church. A majority, both in church and society, were strongly in favor of Mr. Dodge. When the church was called together to concur with the society in making out a constitutional call, Mr. Putnam, exercising what was called the "negative power," which the Saybrook Platform allowed to ministers, dissolved the meeting without permitting a vote to be taken upon the question. Thus by a strategic manœuvre the desire of the majority was defeated.

But the majority were not to be so easily silenced. Thus debarred from further expression and action, they indignantly repudiated all connection with the First church and society and straightway organized in a new form as the Reformed Christian Church and Congregation in Pomfret. A satisfactory covenant was hastily drawn up and adopted, and divine service instituted in friendly private houses. The young minister, thus released from previous restrictions, was more eloquent and fascinating than ever. Crowds flocked to the new places of worship, and the old meeting house and minister were almost deserted. Only twelve male members were left. These were Reverend Aaron Putnam, Oliver, Asa, Seth, Ebenezer and John Grosvenor, John and John H. Payson, Caleb Hayward, Josiah Sabin, Simon Cotton and Jabez Denison. Conflict of sentiment now ran high, over this occasion and the Ecclesiastic Constitution of Connecticut and the principles of Saybrook Platform, which gave the occasion its destructive force. A recriminative war of words, from platform and from press, was waged, not only in Pomfret, but throughout the county and state.

The first public act of the new society, December 28th, 1792, was to invite Mr. Oliver Dodge to settle as its minister; and in the following February he was ordained over it. So strong was the feeling against him that ministers of good standing shrank from the responsibility of introducing him into the ministry, and of many invited only the Reverend Isaac Foster, his sons and son-in-law—all of doubtful orthodoxy—assisted in the ordaining services. This ministerial reprobation only increased the

fervor of his adherents. His personal friends clung to him with unwavering fidelity. His levities and indiscretions, which all were forced to acknowledge, were but the irrepressible exuberance of a free and generous spirit, and were more than compensated by his ingenuous confessions of wrong and great social attractions. The newspaper controversy and Swift's avowed championship gave him great notoriety, and attracted many hearers from abroad. The old Grosvenor House, in which his church now worshipped, could hardly contain the congregation. No minister in the county had so wide a popularity. Some of the most respectable families in Brooklyn, Abington parish, Woodstock, Thompson and Killingly left the churches of their former attendance and united under the Reformed church of Pomfret.

But while the masses were carried away by the fascinations of the popular preacher, a small but powerful minority were banded together against him. This minority were supported and encouraged by the ministry of the county and sober men in the neighboring towns. An attempt made by the Reformed society to obtain possession of the house of worship was unsuccessful, the Windham county court deciding "that Mr. Putnam's adherents were the First Ecclesiastic Society and had a right to the society property." This legal action and decision only made the controversy more bitter. Friendly intercourse between the contending parties was wholly suspended. The controversy was carried into town elections. Opponents of Mr. Dodge were excluded from office. Josiah Sabin, who had served as town clerk for many years, was defeated, and, in vacating his office, he wrote in the record, "Here ends the services of a faithful servant of the public, who was neglected for no other reason than because he could not DODGE."

This breach and controversy continued till near the close of the century. For more than six years Mr. Dodge maintained his ascendancy, and his church grew and flourished, while the old church withered and wasted. Even some of the faithful eleven were lost to it. The family of Captain Seth Grosvenor removed to New York state. Through these weary years, however, the faithful few maintained the stated Sabbath service in the great desolate meeting house, the deacons praying and reading the sermons prepared by the speechless pastor, who cheered them by his presence and silent participation in their worship.

The conduct of Mr. Dodge grew at length more and more scandalous, until he became openly profane and drunken, even entering his pulpit in a condition of intoxication. The eyes of his most ardent followers were at last opened, and the tide of popularity was suddenly and strongly turned against him. He was tried by his own church July 4th, 1799, and found guilty of drunkenness and profanity, and was forthwith excluded from the rites and privileges of the church until by his reformation he should be restored to their charity. The restoration never came. Like Jonah's gourd the Reformed church of Pomfret now withered and died. Their last meeting was held November 4th, 1799, when they determined to return to the First church and society. No obstacles being in the way, they readily effected a union with the old church, and Mr. Asa King was now engaged as assistant to Mr. Putnam. After a reasonable probation Mr. King was approved, and May 5th, 1802, he was duly installed pastor of the First church of Pomfret, Mr. Putnam having been dismissed from the position which his physical disabilities would not permit him to fill. Mr. King gradually led his people to a higher sense of the duties and responsibilities of life and the demands of Christian character upon them. Material things of the church were not overlooked. The meeting house was repaired, its back seats replaced by fashionable pews and an additional sounding board suspended under the massive canopy over the pulpit. His pastorate was harmonious and fruitful. A special revival season was enjoyed in 1808, when seventy members were added to the church. An imposing addition, a lofty tower or steeple, was now added to the meeting house. An unfortunate casualty marks the history of that improvement. Barnard Philips, a youth of nineteen, who was assisting in raising the structure, was thrown from the top of the frame and so injured by the fall that he died in a few days. This was done in 1810. With the completion of the improvements a bell was placed in the tower by the generosity of Mr. Benjamin Duick, which served the purpose of a town clock, being rung three times a day. Mr. King was dismissed from his charge in 1811. An interval of three years followed, after which Reverend James Porter was inducted into the pastorate. He was a very active man, setting forward every good work that came to his hand. He established the first Sabbath school in this region; began the first monthly concert for prayer,

and took the first collection at such meetings for foreign missions; was one of the most earnest promoters of the temperance cause, and helped organize in Pomfret a Moral Society, having for its aim the suppression of gambling, lottery dealing, Sabbath breaking and the excessive use of liquor.

Always forward in culture and worldly refinements, it was in keeping with the character of this church that it should be among the first to introduce the grand church organ. This was done during the second decade of the present century. Deacon Sweeting's son, Nathaniel, was the first organist, and many were the comments called forth by his orchestral performances. The plain old Quakers and the Methodists of the town were much scandalized by this culmination of worldly vanity. Still the church seemed to go forward, engaging with much interest in any progressive movement. A Duick Charitable Society was organized in 1817, having for a permanent fund a legacy left for charitable purposes by Mr. Duick. A Bible class met every week at the parsonage. In 1819 the Sabbath school was organized with one class of boys and two of girls and Major Copeland for superintendent.

About ten years later a new church edifice was built. The site was secured from Doctor Waldo, on a lot east from the former site, the ladies of the church paying for the same by knitting a hundred pairs of stockings. Materials from the old house were used as far as it seemed advisable in the construction of the new one, which was completed and dedicated in October, 1832. Mr. Porter asked to be dismissed in 1830. Reverend Amzi Benedict was installed pastor in 1831. The organ was retained in the new church, being now played by Miss Elizabeth Vinton, the only person in town, it was said, who was competent for the service. A deep and powerful revival was experienced by the church during Mr. Benedict's time, bringing many into the church. His successor, Reverend Daniel Hunt, was ordained April 4th, 1835, and most worthily filled the place of his esteemed predecessors. At this time two brothers, Zephaniah and Job Williams, served as deacons. Lewis Averill was elected to that office at a later date. Reverend Daniel Hunt enjoyed a pastorate of nearly thirty years, and was succeeded by Reverend Walter S. Alexander, who was ordained here November 21st, 1861, and was dismissed January 17th, 1866. Reverend Henry F. Hyde was installed April 24th, 1867, and dismissed June 20th, 1872. Reverend

William A. Benedict was acting pastor from January, 1873, to May, 1874. Reverend W. S. Alexander returned and served as acting pastor from August, 1874, to August, 1875. Reverend Charles E. Gordon was acting pastor from January, 1876, to May, 1877. Hamilton M. Bartlett was installed as pastor in May, 1878, and dismissed in February, 1883. Reverend Frank H. Palmer was installed in February, 1884, and dismissed in May, 1885. Reverend Egbert N. Munroe was acting pastor from December, 1885, to May, 1889. The membership of the church in 1889 was one hundred and eight. A parsonage was built in 1883, at a cost of \$3,000, not including the lot upon which it stands, which was given by Mrs. C. Comstock. The church was repaired and an organ purchased in 1878, at an expense of about \$1,800, and further repairs and improvements to the outlay of \$800 were made in 1886.

During the year 1776, a Baptist society was organized in Pomfret. The Baptist element which had then spread considerably in different parts of the county came by the way of Canada parish, Abington having furnished many adherents of that sect to the Grow church of the former locality. In Pomfret public religious services were held by Mr. Manning at the houses of the Thurbers and other friends, which excited much interest. Baptist sentiments for a while gained strength and a branch was also established in the Quinebaug valley, including members from the eastern part of Pomfret and from Killingly. The Reverend Mr. Kelly labored for a time with the Pomfret Baptists, holding services at convenient residences, which were attended by large numbers. Hitherto the Baptists of Windham county had been mostly of the lower and uneducated classes of society, and their ministers had been men of little or no education. Now, men of higher standing were entering the ranks and a different ministry was demanded. President Manning urged the importance of education and endeavored to influence the people to attend to having their children educated. The society here maintained its organization and held services occasionally for many years, even though they had no minister and no house of worship. After a number of years, in 1803, the people on the Pomfret and Killingly line were constituted a branch of the Woodstock church. Under the preaching of James Grow, of Hampton, or Canada parish, their numbers were multiplied. Regular services were held in the Gary school house at Pomfret

Landing. Here, on September 18th, 1805, James Grow was ordained to the ministry, by a council of elders and deacons from the neighboring Baptist churches. In April, 1806, a distinct church was organized here, the members of which were dismissed from the Woodstock church as follows: Elisha Sabin, Artemas Bruce, James Grow, Pardon Kingsley, Smith Johnson, Thomas Bowen, Charles Robbins, Guy Kingsley, Stephen Chapman, Alvin Easting, Lucretia Cady, Mary Brown, Hannah Sabin, Patty Bruce, Phebe and Sarah Stone, Azubah Bowen, Polly M. Spalding, Orpha Easting, Susanna Kingsley, Katharine Ashcroft, Sabra Withey, Hannah Kent, Betsey Leavens, Hannah Fling, Celinda Copp, Lucy Goodell. Services were still held in the Gary school house and at other convenient points. A great revival visited this church in 1813-14, and many were added to its numbers. Services were held in the Gary and the Brick school houses. Soon after this a meeting house was built on Pomfret street. The branches at Pomfret Factory (now Putnam) and the Killingly border, were rapidly increasing in strength. Soon after this the Pomfret church seemed to have reached its zenith and began to decline, while its branches grew stronger. It, however, maintained services and pastors for several decades, but was finally absorbed into its former branch at Putnam. Among the last of its pastors were Bela Hicks, Warren Cooper and Isaac Burgess, the last of whom closed his service here about forty years ago.

Episcopalians in Pomfret worshipped with the church at Brooklyn in the "Malbone" church, until the year 1828, when the parish of Christ church was organized. A church edifice was built during the following year. Reverend Ezra Kellogg officiated in this as well as in Trinity church at Brooklyn. Reverend Roswell Park assumed the sole charge of Christ church in 1843. At the same time he opened a select school, which gained a very high reputation. Doctor Park was a thorough scholar, a strict disciplinarian, and his nine years' incumbency left abundant fruits. Reverend H. C. Randall was in charge of the church a few years after that. The church is at present without a rector. The last one in charge was Reverend Fred. Burgess, who came to the church in May, 1883, and left it in May, 1889. The old site is occupied by a new and elegant church, which was erected in 1882, and consecrated in May, 1883. It occupies a beautiful site in a grove of evergreens, and is in part surrounded by an ancient but well kept burial ground.

The "Friends" gained a name in this town about the end of the last century and in the early years of the present century. Unobtrusive as their principles require them to be, their presence was asserted by no booming demonstrations. A few Quaker families resided in the town at the time of which we speak, and a plain house of worship was erected for them by the Smithfield Conference. This worship was maintained in a quiet way for many years, but it has now long since died out.

Methodism, though nominally belonging at one time to Pomfret, made but little headway except in the eastern part, where it joined other towns, and the history of its movements there will appear in connection with Putnam and Killingly, where the resulting churches centered. As early as 1793 a class was formed in the northeastern part of the town, then known as Cargill's mills, which grew until 1795, when the Pomfret circuit was formed, which included that and a number of neighboring stations in northeastern Connecticut, the circuit comprehending altogether a membership of 169. Daniel Ostrander and Nathaniel Chapin were then preachers, and Jesse Lee presiding elder. In 1801 this circuit was included in the New London district, and in the following year in the New York Conference. In 1804 it was joined to the New England conference. Daniel Ostrander had then become presiding elder, and John Nichols and Samuel Garsline were preachers on this circuit. Meetings were held in the press rooms of Cargill's mills and in the Perrin House at what is now Putnam. The Methodists, true to their reputation, were active and alive. Meetings were held in private houses. Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Bugbee, Noah Perrin and Mrs. Lucy Perrin were prominent leaders and exhorters. George Gary, a nephew of the last named, began preaching at an early age. The first Methodist camp meeting in Windham county was held in Perrin's grove in 1808, and was largely attended.

Beginnings of Roman Catholic worship were made in Pomfret a few years ago. Mass was said in Pomfret Hall previous to the erection of a church. A Sunday school was also held. In the early part of 1885 the foundations of a new Catholic church were laid in the northeastern part of the town, a mile or more from Pomfret street. In 1886 this region was made a part of the parish of Mechanicsville, and placed under the pastoral care of Reverend Father Flannagan. The church was so far completed that services were held in it on Easter Sunday in 1887, and it was dedicated a few months later.

In the southeastern part of the town lies a settlement which gives evidence of business in earlier days, but which evidences are fading into the appearances of desertion, while in other directions new life is springing up. A large building stands in the heart of the settlement known as Pomfret Landing, which was once a cotton factory, but for long years has been abandoned as to that use, and a part of it is still used as a grist mill. A store and a few houses, and a handsome school house, make up the appearances which art has given to adorn a landscape which nature left in so rich a condition of beauty as to need but little more to make it one of the enchanting nooks of this almost fairy land. We might dwell at length upon the beauties of Pomfret Landing—a rich, cool glen in the green valley of the rippling, rambling, laughing Mashamoquet. But while the din of the cotton mill is no longer heard, and the rock ribbed hills no longer give echoing answers to the shrill whistle of the “brick steamers” plying the river, yet new signs of business life and social prosperity are not wanting here. A creamery was started here in 1885, which is now in a flourishing condition, its success fully warranting all the sanguine expectations which were put forth in regard to it. The cream is received into large vats, holding 300 gallons each, where it is brought to the desired temperature, and thence it goes into swing churns run by steam, in which it is converted into butter. A wagon is run out daily, which gathers the cream from about 400 cows. About 1,800 pounds of butter a week are made during the best part of the season, and the market demand for this butter is ahead of the supply, at good prices. A 12-horse power steam boiler is used to run the machinery and regulate the temperature.

Religious services have within the past year been inaugurated at the school house, no denominational organization existing, but a sort of union service being maintained.

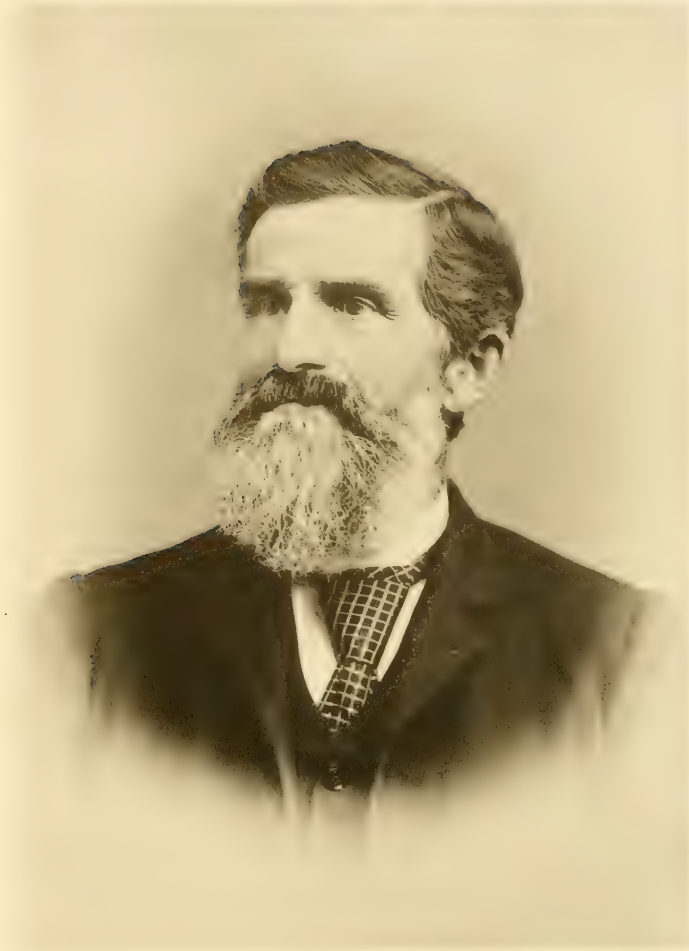
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

WILLIAM IRVING BARTHOLOMEW.—William Bartholomew, second generation in America (see record of Bartholomew family), born in Ipswich, Massachusetts, in 1640–41, was united in marriage to Mary Johnson. Their son, Joseph³, a native of Branford, Connecticut, where he was born in 1682, married Elizabeth Sanger, of Woodstock. Benjamin⁴, a son by this union, born in Woodstock June 23d, 1723, married Martha Carpenter, one of

whose children was Leonard⁵, born in Woodstock in 1758, and married to Sarah Perrin, of Pomfret. Their three children were William⁶, Margaret and Mary. The birth of William Bartholomew occurred in Woodstock on the 23d of June, 1797. He was in 1820 married to Abigail G. Buck, of Killingly. Their children are: Edward Leonard, Simon, Annis Buck and William Irving⁷.

The last named and youngest of these children was born February 7th, 1831, in Pomfret, on the homestead farm, where he still resides. Like the farmers' sons of that day he had no advantages other than those offered by the common schools, with two or more terms at a neighboring academy. The twelve succeeding years were spent mainly in teaching, after which this calling was abandoned for the congenial labor connected with the management of his attractive "Locust Hill Farm." The attention of Mr. Bartholomew was early called to the science of chemistry as applied to agriculture, and the analysis of soils and the food of plants was made by him a special study. The knowledge thus gained very soon established him as a local authority on all matters connected with that subject. He ardently embraced the idea of discovering the ingredients of soils and the needs of crops by the use of chemical fertilizers, and soon became a careful student of these subjects. He instituted, under the auspices of the state, a series of experiments each year for several years, to verify the truth or fallacy of prevailing theories. Some of these experiments have occupied considerable space in the reports of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and other periodicals. An eminent authority alluded to them "as decidedly the most valuable ever made to his knowledge in this country." They were translated into German and appeared in the station reports of that country. Mr. Bartholomew has always taken a prominent part in the Pomfret and Woodstock Farmers' Clubs over which he has presided, and in the various agricultural societies of the county. He has frequently been called to address farmers in different parts of the state on subjects pertaining to agriculture. He was in 1887 appointed a member of the State Board of Agriculture.

He has not only been a close student, but an active citizen in matters pertaining to his town. He has for years been a justice of the peace and selectman, and as a republican represented his constituents in the Connecticut house of representatives for two years. He early became a member of the Methodist Episcopal



H. J. Bartholomew

church of West Thompson. Mr. Bartholomew on the 29th of April, 1858, married Mary J., daughter of Joseph S. Hassard, of Putnam. Their children are: Ada Louise, wife of Arthur H. Strahan; Anne H., married to David Chase; Abby Alice, and Mary Maud.

CHARLES AND BENJAMIN GROSVENOR.—John Grosvenor, the earliest representative of the family in New England and the progenitor of all who bear the name in America, was born in 1641, and died in 1691 in Roxbury, Massachusetts, where his burial occurred. His wife, Esther Clark Grosvenor, a woman of great strength of character and self-reliance, came with her family, consisting of five sons and one daughter, to Pomfret, where she engaged in the management of her landed property, and added the practice of medicine to her other attainments.

Her son, Thomas, born in 1687, married Elizabeth Pepper, and was the father of Amos, who married Mary Hutchins, and settled as a farmer in Pomfret. Among his children was a son, Benjamin, born in 1771, who married Chloe Trowbridge, to whom were born eight children, the two eldest sons dying in early life. John William, the third son, whose birth occurred in 1806, died in 1862, in Pomfret, where his life was spent in the pursuits of a farmer. He married Phebe G., daughter of Charles Spaulding, of Plainfield. Their children are: Hannah, deceased, wife of C. P. Grosvenor; Julia E., deceased; Charles W., born May 11th, 1839; and Benjamin, whose birth occurred September 21st, 1841.

Charles, the elder of these two sons, entered the army in 1862, during the late rebellion, as sergeant of Company D, Eighteenth Connecticut Volunteers, participating in all the important engagements in which his regiment bore a part. Mr. Grosvenor, as a republican, has twice represented his native town in the state legislature and once in the senate. On the 7th of March, 1866, he was married to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of George B. Mathewson, of Pomfret. Their children are three daughters, Mary M., Julia E. and Louise P.

Benjamin, the younger of the two sons of John William, was born in Pomfret, where his life, with the exception of five years in Nebraska, has been spent. In 1871 he purchased his present home in Pomfret. Finding pleasure in the pursuits of business and the ownership of land, he has from time to time added to his original property, until now he has over 700 acres under cultiva-

tion. He was married December 23d, 1867, to Miss Anna, daughter of George B. Mathewson, of the same town. Their children are a daughter, Charlotte M., and a son, John P.

Pomfret having through all its history been a farming town, has within the last twenty years, through the energy and ability of the Grosvenor brothers, preceded by that of their father-in-law, George B. Mathewson, made rapid material progress. Commencing with small things it has become a favorite resort for summer guests, and so rapidly has the popularity of the place increased that Mr. Grosvenor has had occasion repeatedly to enlarge his quarters, adding successive buildings and cottages to his domain. Attracted by the natural beauty of the adjacent country, the salubrious air, and the improvements constantly progressing, much capital has been invested in summer homes in the vicinity.

RUFUS S. MATHEWSON.—The name of Mathewson has for several generations occupied a prominent place in the annals of Windham county. Joseph Mathewson, the grandfather of the subject of this biographical sketch, married Mary Bowen. Their son Darius, whose wife was Mary Smith, became the father of seven sons and three daughters, of whom the eldest son, Rufus S. Mathewson, was born September 14th, 1802, in Brooklyn, and received his elementary training in the schools of his native town. He fitted for college with the intention of entering Yale, but yielding to the solicitations of his father, abandoned his purpose with reference to a classical education and devoted his life to the pursuits of a farmer. He also gave some attention to the study of medicine under Doctor Hubbard, of Pomfret, but relinquished this also in obedience to the filial devotion which influenced his future career. Joseph Mathewson, his grandfather, purchased the historic farm, formerly the home of General Putnam, where the subject of this biography was born and for eleven years resided. He afterward removed to Woodstock, where for thirty-three years he followed an agricultural career. After a year spent in Mississippi, Mr. Mathewson became a resident of Pomfret, where his death occurred on the 29th of May, 1886.

He occupied many positions of honor and trust, both of a civil and political character. His habitual adherence to principle rather than policy sometimes provoked opposition, but left no room for doubt as to the strength and integrity of his character.



R. S. Mathewson

When the New York and New England railroad was projected he was appointed to the difficult task of appraiser of property along the route, while his services were invaluable in the offices of administrator and trustee, where soundness of judgment, no less than probity and rectitude, are invaluable qualities. No influence brought to bear was sufficiently strong to cause him to swerve from the line of duty or depart from his convictions. Mr. Mathewson represented his town in the Connecticut legislature in the years 1861-62, and was often called to the office of selectman and to other positions of trust. He was for many years bank examiner of the state, and one of the incorporators and a director of the Putnam Bank. He was actively interested in the Masonic fraternity as a member of Putnam Lodge No. 46. In early life he united with the Congregational church, to which he gave his firm allegiance and support, and contributed in a spirit not less of duty than of liberality.

Mr. Mathewson, on the 10th of March, 1828, married Faith Williams McClellan, daughter of John McClellan, of Woodstock, and granddaughter of General Samuel McClellan and Hon. William Williams, one of the signers of the declaration of independence. Their children are: William Williams, Harriet Cordelia, wife of Dwight M. Day; Mary Trumbull, married to Colonel Alexander Warner; John McClellan, deceased; Arthur, now residing in Brooklyn, New York, and Albert, deceased.

CHARLES HENRY OSGOOD is the grandson, on the paternal side, of Winthrop Osgood, of Pomfret. His maternal ancestor was John Holbrook, of the same county and town. His parents were Charles and Lucy Holbrook Osgood, whose children were: Mary M., Charles Henry, John H., Frances L. and Ellen E. The eldest of these sons, and the subject of this sketch, was born in Abington, in the town of Pomfret, June 3d, 1841, and received his education at the public and private schools near his home. He has been, during the greater part of his business life, identified with the county in an official capacity. He first served as deputy sheriff, and was in 1871 appointed to fill the unexpired term as sheriff of Windham county. Mr. Osgood was later elected to the same office, of which he was the incumbent for a period of sixteen years. In politics he has been and is an advocate of the principles of the republican party. He is connected with Quinebaug Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. Mr. Osgood was in 1878 married to Miss Anna E. Hart, of Brooklyn, New York.

COLONEL ALEXANDER WARNER.—Asahel Warner, the grandfather of Colonel Warner, was a native of the state of Rhode Island, and later in life removed to New York, from which point he migrated to Connecticut and engaged in agricultural pursuits. His children were seven sons and one daughter, Mary, who became Mrs. Ross. The sons were: Asahel, Stephen, Thomas, John, Sabin, Benjamin and Daniel. Thomas of this number, also a native of Rhode Island, established himself as a manufacturer in Woodstock, where his death occurred in June, 1877. By his marriage to Amy Collins, of Rhode Island, were born children: Sarah A., wife of John Lake; Harriet S., married to Salem L. Ballard; Alexander; Mary F., wife of Samuel M. Fenner, and Edward T.

Alexander Warner, the eldest son, was born in Smithfield, Providence county, Rhode Island, January 10th, 1827, and at the age of eight years accompanied his parents to Woodstock, where he became a pupil of the Woodstock academy. He then entered the academy at Wilbraham, Massachusetts, and before completing his preparatory collegiate course was summoned to the assistance of his father in his business enterprises. Subsequently becoming a partner, the firm was, at the outbreak of the late war, engaged in the manufacture of cotton twine. When the bombardment of Fort Sumter called the North to arms, Colonel Warner was among the first to offer his services to the state. Enlisting as a private he was appointed by Governor Buckingham major of the Third Regiment Connecticut Volunteers, and participated with his command in the first battle of Bull Run. He was afterward made lieutenant-colonel of the Thirteenth Connecticut Volunteers, joined the Department of the Gulf, and shared in most of the important engagements. Ill health compelled his temporary retirement from active service, when, reporting for duty, he was ordered by General Emery, commanding the Department of New Orleans, to raise and organize the Fifth Louisiana Regiment for the defense of New Orleans, which he commanded during that important crisis and until continued ill health compelled his retirement from the service. He was subsequently appointed by Secretary Chase special agent of the Treasury Department at New Orleans, and held the office until his return to the North, on which occasion he tendered his resignation.

In the autumn of 1865, Colonel Warner purchased in Madison



Chas. H. Osgood

county, Mississippi, a plantation embracing several thousand acres. Many other northern capitalists, attracted by the superior productiveness, had also located in the same neighborhood, and the energy, courage, sagacity and apparently exhaustless resources of the subject of this biography, caused him to be recognized from the beginning as a leader of the northern element. He employed at regular wages a large number of freedmen, which exasperated the natives, who were unwilling to realize the fact that slavery was ended. His innovations were denounced as certain to disorganize the labor of the country, and still deeper resentment was aroused as agent for the Freedmen's Bureau, when he compelled on the part of the native planters, the fulfillment of the contracts made with the blacks. During this transitional period his life was often threatened, and always in danger, but he never faltered in the line of duty, nor hesitated to extend to the oppressed the full protection of the law. Colonel Warner was appointed secretary of state by the military commander, was trustee and treasurer of the State University, six years a member of the state senate, and part of that time its president and *ex-officio* lieutenant-governor, four years chairman of the republican state committee, and three times a delegate to the national republican convention. As chairman of the Mississippi delegation at the convention which first nominated General Grant, he cast the vote of the state, with the sentiment, "Mississippi, the home of Jefferson Davis, casts her unanimous vote for U. S. Grant," amidst tremendous applause.

In 1877 Colonel Warner, on returning to the north, purchased "Woodlawn," in the town of Pomfret, embracing a highly cultivated and productive farm from which the blooded stock was a well known feature of the various fairs throughout New England. He, later, removed to "Sunnyside," the former home of Mrs. Warner's family in the same town, where he now resides. The Colonel was in 1876 commissioner from Mississippi to the centennial exposition in Philadelphia and again from Connecticut to the exposition of 1887. He was in 1888 commissioner to the Ohio centennial, and in 1889 to that held in New York. He was elected and served as state treasurer for the years 1887 and 1888, was a member of the state board of agriculture and has been appointed by the several governors to various national agricultural conventions. He was president of the Windham County Agricultural Society, and has held various local offices.

He has extensive interests in the West and is president of the Baxter Bank, of Baxter Springs, Kansas. As a Mason he is connected with Putnam Lodge, No. 46, and Montgomery Chapter. He is a member of Loyal Legion Commandery of Massachusetts.

Colonel Warner was married on the 27th of September, 1855, to Mary Trumbull Mathewson, daughter of Rufus Smith Mathewson and Faith Williams McClellan, of Woodstock. Mrs. Warner is the great-granddaughter of William Williams, one of the signers of the declaration of independence. Mr. Williams married Mary Trumbull, daughter of Jonathan Trumbull, the first colonial governor of Connecticut, the friend of Washington, and prominent during the revolutionary period. Colonel and Mrs. Warner have had two children—Benjamin Silliman, who was born September 24th, 1856, and Arthur McClellan, whose birth occurred April 13th, 1860, and his death September 4th of the same year. Benjamin Silliman, who is a resident of Baxter Springs, Kansas, in 1886 married Sarah L., daughter of Edward Trowbridge, of Brooklyn, New York, and has one son, Arthur Trumbull.



W. H. Burgess Sculp.

Alexander Warner

CHAPTER XXIV.

THE SOCIETY OF ABINGTON.

Organization.—Settlers.—Schools.—Church Progress.—Congregational Church.
—Church of the Messiah.—Second Advent Church.—Libraries.—Hall.—Manufacturing.—Charles Osgood.

THE Society of Abington, comprising the western part of Pomfret, was chartered and described by the assembly May 2d, 1749, the act, in part being as follows: "Resolved by the Assembly that an ecclesiastical society be, and is hereby, erected in the west part of said township, and that the bounds thereof be as follows: Bounded north on Woodstock, westerly on the line dividing between said town of Pomfret and Windham, so far south as to the parish already made partly out of said Pomfret, and partly out of Canterbury and partly out of Mortlake; thence by said parish eastwardly to Mortlake west side; thence by Mortlake to the southwesterly of the Rev. Ebenezer Williams' farm—saving also all the lands and persons that are west of said Mortlake to said parish, that hath been made as aforesaid, that are already granted to said parish; and from said Williams his said corner, the line to run northerly to the southwest corner of Jonathan Dresser's land; from thence to run between J. Dresser's land and the land of Benjamin Allen to Mashamoquet Brook; from thence to run northerly, so as to include the dwelling house of Ebenezer Holbrook, Jun., on the west; from thence to run northwesterly until it comes to the road which crosses the Mill Brook at one hundred and fifty-five rods distance, as the road runs easterly from said brook; from thence to run north nine degrees easterly to Woodstock line, including those families that live within said town of Pomfret, which were heretofore allowed by Act of Assembly to take parish privileges in the second society of Windham, and that the limits aforesaid be limits of one ecclesiastic society, with all the powers and privileges of the other ecclesiastic societies in this Colony. And that the said parish be called and known by the name of Abington."

Abington then numbered about fifty families. The inhabitants met June 19th, 1749, at the house of James Ingalls "to form themselves into a society." Captain Joseph Craft was chosen moderator; Edward Goodell, collector. It was voted "to accept of the house of James Ingalls to have preaching in;" also, "that the committee shall provide a good minister." Apparently no minister was engaged for the winter, as a rate was granted to pay the schoolmaster and other necessary expenses, but none for preaching. Services were probably held in James Ingall's house, a little south of the present Abington village. In April it was voted to hire a school dame three months. The minister at last provided was Mr. Daniel Welch, afterward pastor of the church in North Mansfield. January 14th, 1751, John and James Ingalls, William Osgood, Daniel Trowbridge and Edward Paine were chosen a committee "for setting up and building and finishing a meeting house forty-eight feet by thirty-nine." Twenty pounds, old tenor, were allowed to Zachariah Goodell for one-half an acre of land for a building site, and a rate was ordered to pay the minister and schoolmaster. In the summer of 1751 the meeting house was raised and covered, and though still very incomplete, made ready for occupation. A three months' school was ordered at Solomon Howe's, in the south, and another at John Sharpe's, in the north of the society. Mr. Jabez Whitmore preached through the winter, and made himself so acceptable that he was invited to settle April 23d, 1752. Failing in this attempt, the society next secured the services of Mr. David Ripley, of Windham, a graduate of Yale College, and he was ordained February 21st, 1753, Mr. Devotion, of Scotland, Mr. Ripley's early pastor, preaching the sermon. March 14th the church chose, as suitable persons to serve as deacons, Samuel Craft and Samuel Ruggles. The interior of the meeting house was now made more complete. The heavy land owners were allowed to build pews for themselves, to be done within one year. The pew spots were drawn or distributed to different ones in the following order, after Mr. Ripley and his family had been granted the pew by the pulpit stairs: Caleb Grosvenor, John Shaw, James Ingalls, Edward Paine, John Ingalls, William Osgood, John Sharpe, Daniel Trowbridge, Captain Craft, Captain Goodell, Nathaniel Stowell, Richard Peabody, Jonathan Dana, Edward Goodell, Ebenezer Goodell.

Schools received continually more attention. In 1752 three

schools were allowed, two months in each part, each part to provide a house; middle school at Mr. Howe's. In the following year two school houses were voted—Goodell, Paine and Grosvenor to fix spots. Spots were assigned the succeeding year, but the houses were not provided. In December, 1775, it was ordered, "That the centre school be kept in the old school house; north school at Caleb Grosvenor's, and south school at Edward Goodell's, if he is willing." In 1757 four school houses were ordered, and two were actually built in 1760. In town and public affairs Abington parish bore her full share, her citizens filling a just proportion of needful town offices. Ebenezer Holbrook, Joseph Craft, William Osgood and John Grosvenor were sent successively as representatives to the general assembly. An excellent house of entertainment was kept by James Ingalls, one of its most prominent and respected citizens.

Abington society was obliged to seek the dismissal of its honored pastor, Reverend David Ripley, in consequence of disease, by which he was disabled from efficient service. He consented to be dismissed from his office in March, 1778. This dismissal in nowise effected Mr. Ripley's ministerial standing, and he officiated in the pulpit at home and abroad whenever his health permitted. He was able to preach occasionally to his former charge, and no other minister was settled for several years. Reverend Walter Lyon, a native of Woodstock and graduate of Dartmouth College, was ordained as pastor January 7th, 1783. The first pastor of the church, Reverend David Ripley, after long infirmity and suffering, died in 1785. Mr. Lyon was a faithful and conscientious pastor, devoted to the work of preaching the gospel. Improvements in schools and house of worship, the libraries and missionary efforts, enjoyed his countenance and support. A bell was given by Mr. Samuel Summer in 1800, and leave voted to certain individuals to build a steeple. In 1802 the society voted to pay the expense of hanging and raising the bell and a rope to hang it. Further repairs were soon accomplished and the house brought into good condition. The ecclesiastic society continued its care of the schools, allowing sixteen months schooling a year for the whole society—schools kept at the usual places—and voting that the schoolmasters have no more than forty shillings per month, they boarding themselves. In 1798 four school districts were formally set off and established, and suitable school houses erected.

Fifteen were added to the membership of the church in 1809, and the same number in 1819. William Osgood and Wyllis Goodell were chosen deacons in 1811. Captain Elisha Lord continued to lead the singing. Mr. Abishai Sharpe was excused from paying his assessment for meeting house repairs on condition that he teach a singing school two evenings a week through the season.

Reverend Walter Lyon remained in charge of the Abington church till his death in 1826. His habits of order, discipline and exactness continued through life; his clock and desk were never moved from the spot selected for them on his first occupation of the ministerial homestead. He left a generous bequest to the society, and gave liberally to benevolent objects. Reverend Charles Fitch, a noted revivalist, was installed pastor in 1828. A very powerful revival was experienced in 1831, in connection with "a four days' meeting." Thirty-three persons united with the church the following January; fifty-nine during the pastorate. He was followed in 1834 by Reverend Nathan S. Hunt, who retained the charge eleven years. Abington's usual placidity was greatly disturbed during his ministry by a controversy about building a new meeting house. After the heat of the controversy had passed away, a compromise was effected, and the society voted to repair the old meeting house thoroughly. Repairs were accomplished to general satisfaction, and the renovated house has since been maintained in excellent condition, the oldest church edifice now occupied in Windham county. George Sharpe succeeded to the position of chorister. Elisha Lord and William Osgood, Jr., were chosen deacons in 1831. A Sabbath school was organized in 1826, Deacon Wyllis Goodell, superintendent.

Nathan S. Hunt was installed pastor of this church, February 11th, 1834, and was dismissed April 30th, 1845. Following that time Reverend Edward Pratt supplied the pulpit about four years. He was followed by Reverend Sylvester Hine, who supplied for a time about 1850. Reverend Henry B. Smith was installed January 13th, 1852, and after a considerable pastoral service was dismissed August 26th, 1863. Reverend George H. Morss was ordained and installed May 11th, 1864, and was dismissed November 1st, 1866. An interval of supply then occurred. David Breed, of Windham, began preaching about 1868, and continued until June, 1872. Daniel Frost, of Dayville, supplied

the vacancy at this and other times, when the church was without a pastor. Andrew Sharpe also supplied for a time. Andrew Montgomery followed, from the early part of 1875 to the spring of 1880. Reverend H. M. Bartlett, of Pomfret, supplied the pulpit in 1880, and Reverend Stephen Carter, of Westminster, supplied at a later date. Reverend Daniel J. Bliss came to the church in June, 1884, and remains at the present time. A parsonage was built in 1852. The present house of worship claims the honor of being the oldest one in the state, having been built in the year 1751, and is still in a good state of preservation. The membership of the church at the present time is about ninety.

Meetings were held here by the Second Advent people about the year 1844. In that year they were held in a school house. They were begun and for several years conducted under the leadership of Doctor Huntington, of Brooklyn. A vacant store was obtained and fitted up with seats, and this was used until about 1864, when a chapel was built in the neighborhood. This was occupied until the fall of 1874, when it was disposed of, and a new church built about a mile to the west of the former site. This is now standing and in use, and is a very neat edifice. Doctor Huntington continued to serve the church many years. Elder Carpenter preached here in connection with his labors in the Second Advent church at Danielsonville for a number of years. Elder Hezekiah Davis was settled as pastor of this church from 1874 till about the year 1882. He was followed by Elder Albert Johnson, who remained till about two years since, after which no settled pastor has been in charge. Elder Card, from Rhode Island, and others supplied for brief periods. The present membership of the church is about fifty. A Sunday school has been in active working order most of the time since the time of Elder Davis, and was in operation part of the year previous to that.

The Church of the Messiah, an Episcopal branch from the church at Pomfret, was erected in Abington in 1882 and 1883. Episcopal services were commenced here in 1881. A lot was donated by Miss Sarah C. Howard, and the church was erected upon it. Some of the timber and furniture from the old house at Pomfret were used in this new house, and funds for building were largely obtained by contributions from the people of the diocese. The house was consecrated November 20th, 1883. As far as church organization and ministerial supply is concerned it is a part of the parish of Pomfret.

In 1793 a number of the inhabitants of Abington formed a "Propriety" for the purpose of establishing a library here. This was called the Social Library of Abington. Walter Lyon was the first librarian. A hundred volumes were soon procured. The price of a share was stated at twelve shillings. The instructive element here was too heavy for the palate of the young, and in 1804 a "Junior Library" was formed, with John Holbrook, librarian. This contained some ninety volumes of light literature of the day. In 1813 the literary spirit of Abington organized a Ladies' Library of which Alatheia Lord was librarian. Seventy dollars were promptly raised and invested in books. An admission fee of three dollars and an annual tax of twenty-five cents was agreed upon to furnish funds. New members were from time to time admitted, and many valuable books bought. In 1815 a union of the Social and Junior libraries was effected and these became the United Library of Abington.

With the multiplication of newspapers and magazines these libraries were less needed than they were at first, and in the course of the next quarter of a century they had fallen into neglect. The Abington Ladies' Library for many years retained its place and power as a factor of culture in the town. The United Library of Abington also maintained its hold upon life until a revival of interest in its cause came about and a few years since the Ladies' Library was consolidated with it and the new Social Library thus formed was endowed with some seven hundred volumes. This library has been maintained to the present time, and is in a prosperous condition. Some of the old books still remain in it. A building was erected for its accommodation about 1886. It stands near the Congregational church, on the Common. It has a library room and another room for meetings. The building cost about \$1,500, of which Mr. Sabin Chase, of Waterbury, contributed \$500. The library contains about one thousand volumes.

Some manufacturing is carried on in Abington, though not enough to make that industry a prominent feature of the locality. Albert Smith carries on the manufacture of brooms. Carriages are manufactured by William Brayton. The manufacture of road machines was carried on here a few years since, by George W. Taft. He began experimenting in these machines as early as 1873, since which time he has taken out a number of patents, developing the "New Model Champion." He began manufac-

turing in 1882. The growth of the business for five years is shown by the number of machines manufactured each year, which was 6, 100, 250, 400, 1,800. The number last mentioned were produced in 1886, when Mr. Taft had become associated with a firm at Kennett Square, Pa., and in the latter part of that year he removed his works to that place.

Of one of the conspicuous representatives of this locality we have the following mention to make :

Charles Osgood was born in Pomfret, Abington Society, March 29th, 1811, and died December 5th, 1888. With the exception of a residence of five years in Putnam, he lived on the homestead which had been in possession of the Osgood family since the year 1747.

Mr. Osgood's ability and integrity recommended him to positions of trust and responsibility. For five terms he represented the town of Pomfret in the legislature, and was an influential member. He was chairman of the state prison committee, and was the author of the bill he introduced, which passed the legislature, giving to the prisoner a deduction of five days from his term of sentence for each month of good behavior.

Previous to the Presidential election in 1864, Governor Buckingham sent Mr. Osgood south to receive the votes of the soldiers in some of the Connecticut regiments.

He was one of the founders of the Windham County Agricultural Society in 1852, and for several years was its corresponding secretary and afterward its president. For nearly twenty years he was acting school visitor. To him were chiefly due the select schools that in successive years were of benefit to the young people of Abington.

Mr. Osgood married in 1838, Lucy Holbrook, daughter of John Holbrook, of Abington, a member of the Windham county bar. Mrs. Osgood died in 1885. They have left two sons and three daughters.

CHAPTER XXV.

THE TOWN OF BROOKLYN.

Facts and Figures.—Movement of Settlers.—Richard Adams.—Isolated Settlers.—Division of Vacant Lands.—The Stoddard Tract.—Heterogeneous Settlement.—A Minister Employed.—Organization of "The Society taken out of Pomfret, Canterbury and Mortlake."—Becomes Brooklyn Parish.—The Town Chartered.—List of Inhabitants.—Business and Public Questions.—The County Seat Moved Here.—Brooklyn Newspapers.—Putnam and the Wolf.—General Putnam.—Godfrey Malbone.—Roads and Bridges.—Manufacturing Enterprises.—School Accommodations.—Church History, early and late.—Banks.—Insurance Company.—Agricultural Society.—Creamery.—Decline of Manufactures.—Biographical Sketches.

THE township of Brooklyn, the shiretown of Windham county, is centrally located, with Pomfret on the north, Killingly and Plainfield on the east, Canterbury on the south, and Hampton on the west. The area of the town is about thirty square miles, its width from north to south being about five miles and its length from east to west about six miles. It has one central village, which contains the county buildings, churches, stores and shops, and is very handsomely shaded and ornamented. The northern part of the town is hilly, while the southern part is marshy and rolling. The Quinebaug sweeps its eastern border all the way, and Blackwell's brook traverses the town from the northwest part to the southern border. No railroad infringes upon Brooklyn territory, but convenient communication with the world is afforded by stage line to Danielsonville about three miles from the central village. The population at different times has been: 1800, 1,202; 1840, 1,488; 1870, 2,355; 1880, 2,308. Grand list, 1845, \$23,866; 1887, \$1,451,404.

In 1703, Richard Adams, of Preston, obtained, for two hundred pounds, from Major Fitch, a deed of three thousand acres of wilderness land, south of Blackwell's tract. Its bound began at the junction of the Five-Mile and Quinebaug rivers, extending west on Blackwell's line to a pine tree marked B, by the side of Blackwell's brook, and beyond it; thence south four hundred

and eighty perches; thence east to the Quinebaug, where Beaver brook empties into it. Richard Adams, Jr., appears to have made a settlement on this tract, even before the deed of conveyance was executed, and was the first settler within the limits of the township granted to Blackwell, and the present town of Brooklyn. His wife was a daughter of Daniel Cady, of Aspinock. Their homestead was in the depths of a dense wilderness, much infested with wild beasts and Indians, about a mile southeast of the site of the present Brooklyn Green. A colony of beavers held possession of the brook adjoining. Richard Adams was numbered with the inhabitants of Plainfield in 1701; in 1703 assisted in the organization of Canterbury, and was claimed for many years as an inhabitant of that township.

A strip of land south of the Adams tract was purchased of Major Fitch by John Allen, of Aspinock, 1703, and conveyed by him, in 1705, to his son Isaac, who soon took personal possession. John Woodward settled south of Allen and north of Canterbury line in 1706. In 1707 Edward Spalding, of Plainfield, bought land north of Canterbury bounds, at the foot of Tatnick hill, and there settled with his family. These four families were for several years the only white inhabitants within the limits of Blackwell's patent. Richard Adams and his neighbors were left unstated to any township for several years—a few isolated families remote from settlements and civilization. They paid rates to Canterbury and attended religious worship there when practicable. Communication with the outside world was difficult and sometimes dangerous. The road from Canterbury to Woodstock passed near Edward Spalding's house, which soon became a place of entertainment for travelers—his first barrel of rum coming up from Norwich on horseback, lashed between two poles and dragged behind the rider.

The Adams tract was divided after a time into eight equal and parallel allotments, running from east to west, and made over to the seven children of Richard Adams, of Preston—Richard, Jr., receiving a deed of two lower allotments in 1712. Twenty-five hundred acres west of the Adams tract were secured by Captain John Chandler, 1707. The several tracts held by Fitch, Blackwell, Stoddard and Chandler were left vacant and neglected till the death of Sir John Blackwell, when the Mortlake manor fell to his son, and was sold by him to Jonathan Belcher, of Boston, April 3d, 1713. A highway was laid out from north to

south. Two noble farms or manors, called Kingswood and Wiltshire, were laid out for Mr. Belcher's own occupation. "For the promoting of public good and the better settling of the land," large tracts were sold—fourteen hundred acres on the Quinebaug to Governor Saltonstall, five hundred acres to Samuel Williams, of Roxbury, and three hundred to Mr. Belcher's brother-in-law, William Foye. A public training-field was reserved between one of Foye's farms and Nantasket brook. About twelve hundred acres were left in forest and meadow for future disposal.

In 1714 the vacant land between Pomfret and Canterbury was divided between these townships, and thus the land south of Mortlake, owned by Adams, Chandler and Stoddard, came under the jurisdiction of Pomfret. Richard Adams was chosen selectman in 1715, and by a very clear vote, the town made over to him all their right and title to his land as to property. The settlement of this section was somewhat quickened by its annexation to Pomfret. Daniel Cady, of Killingly, father of Mrs. Richard Adams, bought six hundred acres of land near Tatnick hill, of Jabez Allen, in 1714, and settled there with a large family of sons and daughters. James Cady, of Marlborough, purchased land of Richard Adams in 1716. John, Joseph and Daniel Adams then took possession of their allotments, and threw part of them into market. Sixty acres now included in Brooklyn village were sold by Joseph Adams in 1718, to Samuel Spalding. John Adams sold homesteads to Jabez Spicer, John Hubbard, Daniel Adams, a farm to Samuel Head. The twenty-five hundred acres of land between the Adams and Stoddard tracts were sold by Captain Chandler for £190, to Joseph Otis, of Scituate, in 1715. Its eastern half was sold out in farms to the Reverend Ebenezer Williams, Ebenezer Whiting, Samuel Spalding, Jonathan Cady and Josiah Cleveland, in 1719; the western half was purchased by Stephen Williams, Joseph Davison, and Joseph Holland, in 1723. The Stoddard tract remained for many years in the hands of its non-resident owner, save a few hundred acres, sold in 1719 to Abiel Cheney, Benjamin Chaplin, of Lynn, Samuel Gardner and Samuel Pellet. Chaplin and Pellet also purchased land of Major Fitch, and were the first settlers of the southwestern corner of Pomfret.

About twenty families had gathered in the south part of Pomfret by 1720. Their position was somewhat peculiar. A dis-

tinct, independent township lay between them and the main settlement, and had to be traversed by them on their way to public worship, town meetings and trainings. The long journey over rough roads, which they had not the power to mend or alter, was "exceedingly difficult and next to impossible, and children were compelled a great part of the year to tarry at home on the Lord's day." Some of the residents in the south part of this region maintained church relations in Canterbury, so that the charge was divided between the Reverend Messrs. Williams and Estabrook, who visited the people, watched over them, and established a monthly lecture in the neighborhood, which was continued for some years.

In 1721 the inhabitants of this section were: James Cady, Joseph Adams, Isaac Adams, Daniel Adams, John Adams, Ezekiel Cady, Daniel Cady, Jonathan Cady, Ezra Cady, John Cady, Daniel Cady, 2d, Samuel Spalding, Isaac Allen, Josiah Cleveland, Joseph Holland, Ezekiel Whitney, Henry Smith, Ebenezer Whiting, John Woodward, Jabez Spicer, Jonas Spalding, John Hubbard, John Wilson, Samuel Gates, Samuel Shead.

In 1728 this tract lying between Pomfret on the north and Canterbury on the south had upon it thirty-two inhabitants. This section comprehended then about eight thousand acres, and had a rate list of £2,000. The people sought incorporation as a town, but failed to obtain a charter. They next employed a minister, Mr. William Blossom; Pomfret, within whose jurisdiction most of the lands lay, giving the people here freedom from paying ministerial rates, on account of their remoteness from the church in that town. An ecclesiastical society was chartered in May, 1731, included in the limits, described as follows: "Bounded east with Quinebaug river, west with Windham line, north with the ancient and first bounds of the towns of Pomfret and Mortlake, and from thence extending south to a line run and described by Mr. Josiah Conant, surveyor, September 4, 1731, east and west across the bounds of Canterbury, and parallel with Canterbury south line; said line to be the south bounds of said parish." The new society held its first meeting November 23d, 1731. A meeting house was built in 1734, a few rods northwest of the site of the present Congregational house of worship in Brooklyn. Two and a half acres of land, now included in Brooklyn Green, were soon after conveyed by Mr. Spalding to the society for a meeting house

spot and other uses. The title which at first attached to this section and society was "The Society taken out of Pomfret, Canterbury and Mortlake." This elongated title was exchanged by act of assembly for the more concise title of Brooklyn, which it has since borne.

As early as 1723 the people of this neighborhood received liberty from the general court to form a distinct train-band company by themselves. Samuel Spalding was confirmed as lieutenant and Richard Adams as ensign. October 13th, 1724, Richard Adams, "for love and good-will borne unto his well-beloved friends and neighbors, inhabitants of south addition to Pomfret and north addition to Canterbury, as also for the necessity of a convenient place for a training-field and the setting up of a school house, did give and grant, for the public use of a training-field, unto the aforesaid inhabitants and their heirs, a certain parcel of land lying within ye aforesaid additions, west of the country road, containing one acre." This land was laid out in the western part of Mr. Adams' allotment, a mile southeast of the site of Brooklyn village. At the same date, Daniel Cady, moved by the same considerations of love, good will and affection and "the necessity of a convenient place to bury ye bodies of the dead among us," did give and grant a certain tract of land, east of Blackwell's brook, "for ye public and necessary use of a convenient burying-place to the inhabitants of the additions aforesaid, and their heirs and assigns forever." This gift was laid out as above designated, south of the site of the present Brooklyn village, and still forms a part of the Brooklyn burying ground.

The prosperity of Brooklyn parish under the new *regime* was greatly checked by prevalent sickness and mortality. A pleuratic distemper in 1753 was followed in 1754 by a malignant dysentery, especially fatal to children. Scarcely a family in Windham county escaped the scourge. Two children of Reverend Abel Stiles, three of Reverend Marston Cabot, were among its victims. In Brooklyn, where it raged with great violence, about seventy deaths were reported. Mr. Avery, still apparently the only medical practitioner in the vicinity, ministered day and night to the sick and dying till he was himself prostrated and overcome by the disease. The death of this excellent minister was greatly mourned.

The township of Brooklyn received a charter from the assembly in May, 1786, to organize as a town. The first town meeting was held in its much esteemed meeting house, June 26th, 1786. Colonel Israel Putnam was called to the chair. Seth Paine was chosen town clerk, treasurer and first selectman; Andrew Murdock, Asa Pike, Daniel Tyler, Jr., and Joseph Scarborough, selectmen; Peter Pike, constable; Ebenezer Scarborough, Abner Adams, Joshua Miles, Jedidiah Ashcraft, Jr., Salter Searls, Nathan Witter, Joseph Davison, Samuel Williams, Stephen Frost, James Dorrancé, Elisha Brown, Reuben Harris, surveyors; John Jefferds, Ebenezer Gilbert, fence viewers; Abijah Goodell, Isaac Cushman, tithing men. The bounds of the town were at first identical with those of the previous society, but twenty-four hundred acres were soon released to Hampton. Seth Paine was appointed to agree with the agents of Canada parish on a straight line between Brooklyn and the new town, and consent that they may have as much land as prayed for if they will maintain the poor. The Quinebaug formed the eastern bound. North and south lines remained as previously settled. Pomfret was allowed to retain a projection on the southwest, now Jericho, on the supposition that it would never be able to pay its own expenses. It was voted that the town line should be also the society line, and the pound already built near Doctor Baker's be a town pound. Highway districts were soon laid out, and labor paid for at three shillings a day for a man and team in the spring, and two-and-six-pence a day in the fall. A half-penny rate was voted for the support of the schools. A rate list made in 1788, shows the following names of taxpayers in the town, and the ratable estates amounted to £9,338, 10 shillings, 2 pence.

Adams, Samuel, William, Asaph, Lewis, Ephraim, Philemon, Shubael, Abner, Noah, Willard, Peter, Ephraim, Jun.; Allyn, Jabez, John, Joseph; Allen, Parker; Ashcraft, Jedidiah, John, Jedidiah, Jun.; Alworth, James, William; Aborn, James; Baker, William, Doct. Joseph, Joel, Stephen, John, Erastus, Joseph, Jun.; Brindley, Nathaniel; Butt, Samuel; Brown, Shubael, Alpheus, Jedidiah, John; Bowman, Elisha, Walter; Barrett, William; Bacon, Joseph, Asa, Nehemiah; Benjamin, Barzillai; Cushman, William, William, Jun., Isaac; Clark, Moses, Daniel, Caleb; Cleveland, Davis, Joseph, Elijah, Phillips, Phinehas; Cady, Gideon, Ezra, Jonathan, Uriah, John, Phinehas, Ebenezer, Benjamin, Asahel, Nahum, Nathan, Daniel, Widow Lydia, Elia-

kim; Copeland, William, Asa, Joseph, Jonathan, James; Chaffee, Ebenezer; Coller, Jonathan, Asa; Cogswell, Nathaniel; Cloud, Norman; Chapman, Amaziah; Darbe, Ashael, William, Alpheus; Downing, Jedidiah, David, Ichabod, James; Denison, David; Davison, Joseph, Joseph, Jun., Peter; Dorrance, James; Davis, Samuel; Davidson, William; Eldredge, James, Gurdon; Eaton, Ezekiel; Fasset, Elijah, Josiah, Joab, John; Foster, Daniel; Fling, Lemuel; Frost, Stephen; Fuller, John, Josiah; Fillmore, William; Goodell, Abijah, Alvan; Gilbert, Rachel, Joseph, Eleazer, Benjamin, Jedidiah, John; Geer, John; Herrick, Benjamin, Rufus; Howard, Charles; Hubbard, Ebenezer, William, Benjamin, Jun.; Hutchins, Isaac; Hewitt, Stephen, Increase; Harris, Samuel, Reuben, Paul, Amos, Ebenezer; Hancock, John; Hide, Jabesh; Holmes, Nathaniel; Jefferds, John; Joslin, David; Ingalls, Samuel; Kendall, Peter, John, David; Litchfield, Eleazer, John, Israel, Uriah; Mumford, Thomas; Miles, Jesse, Joshua, Thomas; Murdock, Andrew; Malbone, John; Merrett, Charles, Thomas; Morgan, Roswell; Mason, Shubael; Medcalf, Hannah; More, Daniel; Putnam, Daniel, Peter Schuyler, Israel, Jun., Reuben; Pike, John, Joseph, Peter, Jonathan, Asa, Willard; Paine, Simeon, Seth, Jun.; Delano, Seth, Daniel, Benjamin; Prince, Timothy, Timothy, Jun., Abel; Pierce, Benjamin; Preston, Jacob; Palmer, Elihu, Thaddeus; Pettis, Joseph; Pellet, Jonathan; Pooles, Amasa; Rowe, Isaac; Smith, William, Thomas; Stanton, Thomas; Stevens, John; Storrs, Dinah; Scott, William; Searls, Daniel, Salter; Scarborough, Ebenezer, Jeremiah, Joseph, Samuel; Stowel, Calvin; Shepard, Josiah, Benjamin; Spalding, Abel, Ebenezer, Caleb, Rufus, Ebenezer, Jun.; Shumway, Ebenezer; Staples, Abel; Tracy, Zebediah; Tilley, James; Tyler, Asa, Daniel, Daniel, Jun., Oliver; Thayer, Elijah; Wheeler, Timothy, Job; White, Joseph; Weaver, Remington, John; Wilson, Samuel, Ignatius; Williams, Stephen, Samuel, Jun., Roger Wolcot, Asa, Martha, Marian, Job, Joseph, Samuel, Samuel, 2d; Witter, Nathan, Jun., Nathan, Josiah; Withy, James, Hazael, Eunice; Weeks, Ebenezer, Anna; Wood, Benjamin; Woodward, Ward, Peter.

Among the business enterprises carried on in this town between the close of the revolution and the close of the century might be named a grist mill by William Baker, a saw mill by Stephen Baker, saw and grist mills by Daniel Clark, fashionable store by Frederic Stanley, general merchandise by Gallup &

Clark and George Abbe & Co., hat manufacture by Eleazer Mather, clothiery business by Daniel Rowe, cooperage by Vine Robinson, a distillery of cider brandy by Doctor John Cleveland, succeeded by George Abbe. This was a period of growth, but it closed with decline, so that the census of 1800 showed a loss of over a hundred in the population.

With increasing business and influence, however, Brooklyn sought with the greater earnestness to gain those administrative prerogatives which she believed due to her central position in the county. A petition to form a new county of the northern towns, with Pomfret for its seat of government, had gained no favor when, in 1786, it was urged before the assembly. Believing that her claim would be recognized as the central town of the county, Brooklyn took the lead in 1794, in inviting all the towns interested in the movement to meet at Jefferd's tavern for further discussion and renewed action. Delegates from all the invited towns were present and unanimously agreed "that the northeast part of Windham county was greatly aggrieved at being obliged to go so far to attend courts and to obtain justice." A forcible representation of the views and wishes of these delegates, presented to the assembly, produced such an impression that a large majority of the lower house voted to consider the premises, but were overruled by a vote of the council. Brooklyn, however, did not give up the idea, but improved the opportunities that came to her, and a quarter of a century later had the satisfaction of seeing the courts of the county removed to her central village.

The people of Brooklyn appear to have been alert in the administration of their local government, and entertained a high standard of popular virtue. In her by-laws she expressly enjoined "that only two neat cattle to a family should be allowed to run at large." A health committee was instituted in 1810, which was instructed to procure the most skillful physician in case the spotted fever should appear. Perhaps, as a further preparation for this dreaded visitant, a hearse house and harness were procured; also a pall and a trunk to keep it in, and a committee appointed in each district to superintend at funerals, and form rules for promoting order and regularity on such occasions. The selectmen were required to ascertain, by personal investigation, "who are and who are not furnished with Bibles,

as the law directs," and if any families were found deficient and not able to procure them, to provide and distribute the same.

The brigade review, which was held here in September, 1812, was a very notable and brilliant affair. Five regiments of foot and one of horse participated in military exercise, the company altogether comprising "at least 2,500 troops and four times as many spectators, presenting something of a warlike appearance." It was considered the greatest gathering, in point of numbers and glittering array, ever witnessed in Windham county, and doubtless had its influence in stimulating the war spirit and encouraging enlistment for the war which was then opening with Great Britain. The village of Brooklyn at that time contained about twenty dwelling houses and two mercantile stores. Adams White, Jr., had charge of the first post office. Noted taverns were kept by Phineas Searls, P. P. Tyler and Captain Eleazer Mather. Though so energetic and prosperous, Brooklyn continued to lose by emigration of her sons and citizens to other fields of enterprise and activity.

The removal of the county courts to this town marked a new era in its history. Prosperity again perched upon its banners for a time. In response to petitions from the northern towns of Windham county for the removal of the county seat to a more central and convenient point, a committee was appointed by the assembly to investigate the matter. On their report the assembly, May 27th, 1819, provided that if suitable buildings should be erected in Brooklyn within three years from that time, without expense to the county, and in location and general plans approved by a committee of the county and superior courts, the courts and jail should be held there thenceforward. Brooklyn now put forth earnest efforts to secure the erection of the necessary buildings. Six thousand dollars were required, and Brooklyn pledged \$2,500 of it. The balance was raised in other towns and by voluntary subscriptions in this and other towns outside of amounts raised by tax. On the 26th of July, 1820, the court house and jail were approved and accepted by the proper committee, and at the same time a special court of common pleas was organized, Judge David Bolles presiding. The village now gained in importance rapidly; a newspaper, a bank and a fire insurance company were added to the institutions which soon gathered around the county seat.

The history of newspaper enterprises in Brooklyn is a thing of the past. Its chapter seems to have closed, and only the vicissitudes of the future may reveal whether it is closed forever or not. The opening of the chapter was suggested by the removal of the courts to this town. The *Independent Observer and County Advertiser*, a small paper with a big name, sent out its first issue from Brooklyn, Monday, July 1st, 1820, by Henry Webb, printer and publisher. Samuel and Horatio Webb were also associated in this enterprise—the former having previously published newspapers in Norwich and Windham. The *Observer* surpassed the waning *Herald* in size and general appearance. The paper was fairer and the print clearer. It manifested a good degree of enterprise in securing public and local intelligence. Literary readers were regaled with a variety of original and selected poems, and one of Brockden Brown's most harrowing complications administered as a serial. Samuel Webb acted as general agent. Its circulation was reported as "pretty general in all parts of the county." The *Observer* was superseded in 1826 by *The Windham County Advertiser*, published by John Gray, who gave place in a year to Mr. J. Holbrook. This paper attained the greatest age and most general circulation as a county organ of any published in Brooklyn. It was followed in 1835 by *The Windham County Gazette*, published by Messrs. Carter and Foster, which was maintained for several years. Public exigencies and rising reforms called out several short-lived newspapers, viz.: *The People's Press* devoted the advancement of anti-Masonry; the *Unionist*, an anti-slavery journal, edited by C. C. Burleigh and supported by Arthur Tappan; *The Windham County Whig*, *The Harrisonian*, a campaign paper, published by Edwin B. Carter in 1840, and one or two others, whose names have perished with them. Mr. Joel Davison, of Killingly, served as news carrier during the latter days of these papers, taking them and other periodicals all over his route in baskets and bundles suspended from his stalwart shoulders.

The history of this town would be imperfect without reference to some of the prominent men who in early times belonged to it. Most conspicuous of such stands the name of General Israel Putnam. But it is not our privilege here to give any formal sketch of his life, since that is worthy of a much more full treatment than space would permit us to give, and, on the other hand, a mere outline of his life would be but a repetition of

what is already before the world in publications almost without number. But the name of a character so conspicuous in the history of the nation cannot be "hid under a bushel" in the annals of the township in which he lived. His name frequently appears in the history of the action of this and other towns of the county about the revolutionary period. A native of Salem, Mass., he had in early life removed to a farm in Mortlake, and was there engaged in the peaceful pursuits of agriculture when the stirring events of war aroused him to action and gave the occasion to the latent powers within him to develop as the hero which he proved himself to be. Born to be a leader, and endowed by nature with an intrepidity which was blind to danger, he could not long remain in obscurity. Among the exploits which have been immortalized with his name, the story of his adventure with the wolf, though the actual scene of it was in the adjoining town of Pomfret, seems entitled to preservation here. In general features it is as follows:

Wolves had abounded in every Windham county town at their first settlement, but had gradually disappeared with advancing civilization. Indians Tom and Jeremy had routed them in Plainfield and Killingly. Woodstock's last reported wolf was shot by Pembascus in 1732; Ashford's succumbed in 1735; leaving Pomfret's in sole possession of the field. A craggy, precipitous hill-range, bristling with jagged rocks and tangled forests, south of the Mashamoquet, and between the Newichewanna and Blackwell's brook, was her favorite place of residence, where she enjoyed the privilege of entire seclusion and easy access to the richest farms of Pomfret and Mortlake. For years this creature ranged the country. There was not a farm or door yard safe from her incursions. Innumerable sheep, lambs, kids and fowls had fallen into her clutches. Little children were scared by her out of sleep and senses; boys and girls feared to go to school or drive the cows home; and lonely women at night trembled for absent husbands and children. In summer she was wont to repair to wilder regions northward, returning in autumn with a young family to her favorite haunt in Pomfret. These cubs were soon shot by watchful hunters, but the more wary mother resisted every effort. She evaded traps, outwitted dogs, and made herself, in the words of her biographer, "an intolerable nuisance." Israel Putnam's farm was only separated by a deep, narrow valley from her favorite hillside. This young farmer

had devoted himself to the cultivation of his land with much skill and energy, and within two or three years had erected a house and outbuildings, broken up for corn and grain, set out fruit trees, and collected many valuable cattle and sheep. This fine flock soon caught the fancy of his appreciative neighbor, and one morning some "seventy sheep and goats were reported killed, besides many lambs and kids torn and wounded." Putnam was greatly exasperated by this loss and butchery. He was not one to submit tamely to such inflictions. From his boyhood he had been distinguished for courage and reckless daring. He was a bold rider, a practiced and successful hunter. He had a bloodhound of superior strength and sagacity. His stock was very dear to him, and he resolved at once to rid Pomfret of this nuisance. With five of his neighbors he agreed to hunt the wolf continuously, by turns, till they had caught and killed her.

How long they watched and waited is not known. The final hunt is believed to have occurred in the winter of 1742-43. A light snowfall the night preceding enabled the watchful hunters to trace the wolf far westward over hill and valley, and thence back to her lair in Pomfret. The report of their success in tracking the enemy had preceded them, and men and boys, with dogs and guns, hurried out to meet the returning hunters and join in the pursuit and capture. The track led onward into the heart of that savage fastness, never before penetrated by white man. John Sharpe, a lad of seventeen, grandson of the first William Sharpe, of Mashamoquet, ran, boy-like, in advance of the others, following the trail up the icy crag as it wound on between overhanging rocks, gnarled stumps and fallen tree trunks, to a small opening among the granite boulders of the hillside—the mouth, apparently, of a narrow cave or passage, tunneling far down into the depths of the earth. A joyful shout from the lad announced the discovery of the wolf's hiding place. The news soon spread through the neighborhood, bringing new actors and spectators. Great was the interest and excitement. The wolf was *trapped*, but how could she be *taken*? The day was spent in fruitless efforts to force her from her position. Hounds were sent in, but came back cowed and wounded. Straw and brimstone were burned in the cavern's mouth without effect. Secure in her rock-bound fortress, the enemy disdained to parley or surrender. In the perplexity of the hour, as darkness was drawing on, some one suggested that the stalwart and courage-

ous young Putnam be sent for. It was done, and with dog and gun he instantly obeyed the summons. Appearing on the scene, he declared that the wolf must be routed at all hazards, and that without delay. The dog was sent in, but he would not go. The negro was directed to go in, but he dared not do it. No one wanted to undertake the venture of bearding the lion in his den. But Putnam himself was ready for the onset. Remonstrance and representation of danger were unheeded. Divesting himself of coat and waistcoat, with a rope fastened around his body and a blazing torch in his hand, he slowly crawled down the black, icy, narrow passage into the cavern where the wolf stood at bay, and there in the farthest extremity he beheld the glaring eyeballs of his terrified adversary. Drawn back by those without, he descended a second time with torch and weapon, and with one dexterous shot brought down the wolf as she prepared to take defense, "and the people above, with no small exultation, dragged them both out together."

Working on his farm until the events of the French war called him to action, he entered the service in 1755 as second lieutenant of a company; was captain of a company raised by him in 1756 and placed in guard service at Fort Edward, and in 1758 was promoted to the rank of a major. Returning to his farm, he continued to take active interest in the drilling of the militia and making preparations for defense in case of war. Thus employed on his farm, he received the news of the collision of the British troops and the provincials at Boston while in the field plowing on the morning of April 20th, 1775, the day after the event. The country was rising to arms, and Putnam, leaving his son to unyoke the oxen from before the plow, hastened at once to take his place at the head of the militia, of whom he had already been made colonel. The story of Bunker Hill probably contains no more prominent figure than that of Putnam. For his distinguished services there he was promoted to the position of fourth major general of the American army. After serving throughout the war, he retired for a few years to his home in Brooklyn, where he closed his life.

Always a respecer of religion, long a member of the church, he was drawn with advancing years to a deeper appreciation of spiritual things. In the words of one with whom he had talked intimately, "Death, whom he had so often braved on the field of battle, had no terrors to him on his dying bed, but he longed to

depart and be with Christ." He died May 19th, 1790, after two days' illness. His funeral was the most imposing ceremonial that Windham county had ever witnessed. It was held at the Congregational meeting house, by the Reverend Doctor Whitney, and Doctor Waldo pronounced a eulogium in behalf of the Masons, who, with the military companies, took part in the obsequies. An inscription prepared by President Dwight of Yale College was engraved on a monumental slab which marked his resting place, and the same has been repeated upon the new monument which has been erected to his memory. The old slab had been so much disfigured by relic hunters that it was barely legible, and was indeed a disgraceful monument of a reprehensible custom. A bronze equestrian statue was erected by the state in the middle of the village of Brooklyn to the memory of Putnam. It was unveiled amid imposing military and civic procession and ceremonies on the 14th of June, 1888. At the ceremony, the great-grandson of the old hero, Mr. John D. Putnam, of Wisconsin, had the honor of withdrawing the veil from the statue. Upon the pedestal has been engraved the classic epitaph, which is as follows:

Sacred be this Monument
to the memory
of
ISRAEL PUTNAM, ESQUIRE,
senior Major General in the armies
of
the United States of America;
who
was born at Salem,
in the Province of Massachusetts,
on the 7th day of January,
A. D. 1718,
and died
on the 19th day of May,
A. D. 1790.
Passenger,
if thou art a Soldier,
drop a tear over the dust of a Hero,
who,
ever attentive
to the lives and happiness of his men,
dared to lead
where any dared to follow;
if a Patriot,
remember the distinguished and gallant services

rendered thy country
by the Patriot who sleeps beneath this marble;
if thou art honest, generous and worthy,
render a cheerful tribute of respect
to a man,
whose generosity was singular,
whose honesty was proverbial;
who
raised himself to universal esteem,
and offices of eminent distinction,
by personal worth
and a
useful life.

Previous to the erection of the bronze statue, the bones of Putnam were removed from their previous resting place to a new grave beneath the pedestal. When the remains were taken up the large bones were found well preserved, especially the hip bones, by which the body was additionally identified by a relative. A piece of the shroud was found. The coffin was much decayed. A large stone that had been cemented directly over the body is supposed to have kept off the surface water and assisted in preserving the bones. The remains, the bit of shroud and pieces of coffin were placed in a metallic casket five feet long and reinterred in the new grave. The large stone that had lain over them since 1790, was also replaced in a like position in the new location and cemented down. Then the grave was graded down ready for the statue pedestal.

Another conspicuous character of the revolutionary period was Godfrey Malbone, who owned a large estate here, and who was particularly conspicuous because of his tory sentiments in the time of the war. These sentiments made him a terror in the north part of the county. It had been currently reported at one time, and believed, that he had privately drilled and equipped his negroes, and intended to take up arms for the king when the hour of conflict came. "Malbone's niggers" for a time became a by-word of terror in many a defenseless household in these neighboring towns. But this fear was probably without much foundation. Colonel Malbone throughout the war was allowed to pursue his way unmolested. Though open and outspoken in his attachment to the royal cause, he did nothing to promote it, and by his ready wit and cool assurance managed to evade demands and disarm opposition. At the close of the war he accepted the verdict of arms and change of gov-

ernment with becoming philosophy, and by his kindness and open generosity, his scorn for anything like pretension or hypocrisy, gained the respect and admiration of those most opposed in sentiment. From his tombstone we obtain the following summary of his life and character:—

“Sacred be this marble to the memory of Godfrey Malbone, who was born at Newport, R. I., September 3, 1724, and died at his Seat in this town, November 12th, 1785. Uncommon natural Abilities, improved and embellished by an Education at the University of Oxford, a truly amiable disposition, an inflexible integrity of Heart, the most frank Sincerity in Conversation, a Disdain of every Species of Hypocrisy and Dissimulation, joined to manners perfectly easy and engaging, nobly marked his character and rendered him a real Blessing to all around him. That he was a friend of Religion this Church of which he was the Founder testifies; as do all indeed who knew him that he practiced every virtue requisite to adorn and dignify Human Life.”

In the matter of public road and bridge building this town has not been excessively burdened. Still the early settlers had some improvements of this kind to make, as the needs of the town developed. A new road through Plainfield to Providence, greatly accommodating the south part of the town, was accomplished about 1790. Samuel Butts, Ebenezer Scarborough and Daniel Putnam were commissioned to confer with Plainfield gentlemen and construct a suitable bridge at Pierce's fordway, where it crossed the Quinebaug. The projected turnpike from Norwich to Woodstock excited much discussion. Parish, Putnam and Joseph Scarborough were delegated “to meet the state committee sent to view said road, and show them the minds of said town respecting said business.” Public sentiment apparently favored the project. Ebenezer Scarborough, Captain Roger W. Williams and Captain Andrew Murdock assisted the committee to lay out Norwich turnpike in 1799. Highway districts were remodeled in 1803. Bridges over Blackwell's brook, as well as the Quinebaug bridge, were maintained at the expense of the town. A more direct road to Hampton was laid out in 1825 through the lands of William Cundall, John Ashcraft, Galen Hicks, Havilah Taylor, Amasa Pooler, Richard Carder, Ebenezer Witter, Elijah Witter. In the following year the Brooklyn and Windham turnpike was constructed.

In manufacturing enterprises early Brooklyn had comparatively a greater interest than she has in later years. Grist and saw mills were among the first enterprises of this kind under-

taken. Looking back to a period about one hundred years ago, we find Allyn's grist mill was carried on successfully till the dam was carried off by a freshet, and public opposition delayed its rebuilding. Allen hill received its name from its vicinity to this much frequented grist mill. The oldest son of Peter Adams, whose name was Philemon, with younger brothers, engaged in various industries, running a linseed oil mill and manufacturing pottery and potash. One son acquired the art of working in silver, and fabricated family teaspoons. A daughter excelled in transforming rude homespun fabrics into articles of artistic beauty. With wooden stamps cut out by her brothers and dyes extracted from native plants, she produced a most successful imitation of the richly flowered brocades then in fashion, making dress patterns, vests and furniture coverings that were the admiration of all beholders. At the beginning of the war of 1812, the manufacturing interests of the town consisted of one carding machine, two tanneries, three grist mills and two saw mills. Agriculture was then, as it had previously been, and has since been, the chief industry and support of the people. It was said at that time that no town of equal magnitude in the state made so much cheese and pork as Brooklyn. But later on the Tiffanys, of Killingly, built a large cotton manufactory in the eastern border of the town, on the Quinebaug. Edwin C. Newbury opened a shop as a silversmith, making spoons, spectacles and similar articles. This business later grew and developed into other lines, including the manufacture of spectacles, pens and watch cases.

The first effort of which we can learn in behalf of the schools of this locality was made in 1722. The people here then petitioned the town of Pomfret to which they then belonged that they might be exempt from taxes for building a school house in the center of that town, and also that they might have part of the money that was appropriated from the treasury of the colony to help them to keep a free school in their section. The request was granted by the town, and a school was then established here. For many years after that a school was provided, and in time a school house was built and then school was kept by a master three months and by a mistress eight months in each year, the mistress holding her school in different places to accommodate the smaller children. This one school house stood on the Green and was quite elaborately finished, with ceiling of pine boards,

double floor below and single floor in the chamber, chimney lined with brick as high as the mantle tree, three windows glazed, a convenient writing table, benches to sit on, and a lock.

After the society had been enlarged by the addition of Mortlake greater school accommodations were required. In 1752 the society was divided into four districts by lines running east, west, north and south from the meeting house to the bounds of the society. It was then ordered that school should be kept in five places, an equal length of time in each place, viz. : 1, at the Widow Cleveland's, or Benjamin Hubbard's or near there ; 2, at Leonard Cady's ; 3, at Mr. Dimon's, or near there ; 4, at Samuel or William Williams's ; 5, at the school house in the center of the society.

In 1762 the school districts, which perhaps had from time to time increased in number, were remodelled, and the residents in each are shown in the following list :

“District 1. Containing Captain Spalding, Prince's place, that farm that was the Reverend Mr. Avery's, Nathan Cady, Adonijah Fasset, David Kendall, John Kimball, Reverend Mr. Whitney, Stephen Baker, Ezekiel Cady, Uriah Cady, Daniel Tyler, Thomas Williams, Samuel Cleveland and Joseph Cady.

“District 2. All the lands and houses of Colonel Malbone that are in the society, William Earl, Moses Earl, Jonas Frost, Jedidiah Ashcraft, Joseph Hubbard, Abner Adams, Benjamin Fasset, Nehemiah Adams, John Hubbard, Daniel Adams, Noah and Paul Adams and Samuel Wilson.

“District 3. To contain Peter and Richard Adams, Widow Allyn, Lieutenant Smith, Sergeant Woodward, Reuben Darbe, Jonas Cleveland, Josiah, James and Joseph Fasset, John Allyn, Lieutenant Spalding, Elijah Monrose, Joseph Dyer, Jonathan Backus, Andrew Lester, Captain Prince, Nehemiah Prince, Thomas Wheeler, William Copeland and Moses Smith.

“District 4. To contain Nehemiah Bacon, Joseph Scarborough, Samuel Jacques, James Bennet, Joseph Ross, Widow Barret, Lieutenant Smith, Doctor Walton, Barnabas Wood, Deacon Scarborough, Colonel Putnam and Thomas Eldredge.

“District 5. To contain Samuel Williams, Jr., William Williams, Jr., Deacon Williams, Samuel Williams, Ebenezer Weeks, Rufus Herrick, Jedidiah Downing, Widow Davyson, Benjamin Fasset, Jr., and Amoral Chapman.

"District 6. To contain John Litchfield, Israel Litchfield, Darius Cady, James Darbe, Senior and Junior, Samuel and Eleazer Darbe, Nathan Kimball, Benjamin Shepard, Nehemiah Cady, Caleb Spalding, Daniel, Nahum, John, Henry and Benjamin Cady.

"District 7. John Fasset, James Copeland, Gidion Cady, Samuel Winter, Nathan Witter, Asa Tyler, Lieutenant Hunt, the farm that was Thomas Stanton's, Jacob Staples, Jethro Rogers, James Bidlack and Aaron Fuller."

The school house was now moved to a suitable place in one corner of the common, and "fitted up as well as it was before." School houses were provided for the surrounding districts as soon as possible. A school was kept at least two and one-fifth months a year in each district.

In 1783 an attempt was made to establish an academy here. A teacher whose qualifications were vouched for by the "Governors of Cambridge College," where he had been educated, was employed by some of the enterprising citizens to teach Greek and Latin and "any other branch of literature taught at any private school in the state." The committee in whose charge this enterprise was placed was composed of Daniel Tyler, Jr., John Jefferds, Joseph Baker, Eleazer Gilbert and Jabez Allen. Failing to succeed in this effort, the town gave more care to public education, and committees were appointed to take charge of the school monies and to hire schoolmasters.

In the early part of the present century the Reverend Samuel J. May, then minister of this town, was very active in agitating and promoting the cause of the common schools, and through his activity, influences were set to work which extended to the county and state, and resulted in widespread and much needed reforms in the school system. Being placed on the school committee, he was astonished to find that the public schools were inferior even to those of Massachusetts; that the much vaunted school fund was actually detrimental in its workings; and that people generally were losing interest in schools which cost them nothing. By greater strictness in the examination of teachers, and more thorough supervision, he gave a new stimulus to the Brooklyn schools, and so aroused the attention of other public spirited citizens that they agreed to unite with him in bringing the question before the consideration of the general public. A call was sent out asking the towns throughout the state to send

delegates to Brooklyn for the purpose of considering the character and condition of the common schools of the state. The educational convention was held in May, 1827. Its novelty elicited a large attendance from Windham and adjoining counties. Reports by letter or delegate from nearly a hundred towns revealed such deficiency in teaching and administration as to surprise and mortify the citizens of the state, thus arousing them to measures of reform, which in time effected an entire revolution of the system and its details. As a result of this convention a society of the "Friends of Education for Windham County" was organized, with George Sharpe for president, which for sometime continued to hold meetings and circulate information.

Some efforts had occasionally been made in the direction of a high school, and in 1829 an academy was formally incorporated, the proprietors of the enterprise being Benjamin E. Palmer, Vine Robinson, Philip Scarborough, Daniel P. Tyler and William Hutchins. A suitable building was procured and considerable pains taken to build up a flourishing school. Scholars came freely from surrounding towns, but were apparently more impressed by the court sessions and social attractions of the village than by the instructions received. Ex-Governor Gaston of Massachusetts, Hon. Abraham Payne of Providence, William S. Scarborough of Cincinnati, Brigadier General Tyler of Montgomery, Alabama, were among the notable men who at times received instruction in the Brooklyn Academy, during its prosperous life, which passed many years ago.

The number of children of school age in this town in 1858 was 500; in 1881, 510; in 1887, 623; in 1889, 610. These were in 1889 divided among the school districts as follows: No. 1, 115; 2, 32; 3, 19; 4, 14; 5, 50; 6, 7; 7, 7; 8, 19; 9, 347. In this town there are, 1 graded school of 3 departments and 1 of 5 departments. The estimated value of school houses and sites is \$20,400. The total school expenses for the year were \$5,594.89.

The First church of Brooklyn had its beginnings among the people while as yet there was no organization either of society or town. The people inhabiting south of Mortlake and north of Canterbury were within the proper jurisdiction of the town of Pomfret, but remote some seven or eight miles from the meeting house at the center of the town. Some residents in the northern part of Canterbury were also remote from the meeting house of that town. With remarkable generosity the town of

Pomfret consented to allow the people of this part of their jurisdiction to be clear of ministers' rates in case of their procuring a minister among themselves. About the year 1730 they secured the services of Mr. William Blossom, who for some time preached to them in private houses in different parts, as convenience dictated. Mr. Blossom had not been approved or licensed by the Windham County Association of ministers and churches, and that body, after vainly summoning him to produce his credentials, pronounced him guilty of "contempt of ecclesiastic authority," and forbade his preaching or the people listening to him within the bounds of the association. This was done November 29th, 1730. But Mr. Blossom continued to preach and the people to listen to him, in spite of the decree. The association appealed to the assembly, and the people were divided in sentiment, a part of them rejecting Blossom and obtaining the services of another young man, one Mr. Newell, still without leave of assembly or association.

In the midst of this discord of sentiment, the society was chartered by the assembly in 1731. The society now employed Mr. Newell for a year, at sixty-two pounds salary and his board and a horse to ride. The society in October, 1732, was enlarged by the addition of the south half of Mortlake and inhabitants Joseph Holland and Joseph Davison. A house of worship was erected in 1734, and on November 21st of that year a church was organized, consisting of the following persons: John Woodward, James Cady, Richard Adams, Benjamin Fasset, William Williams, Joseph Holland, Henry Bacon, Joseph Davison and Jonathan Parks. Their number was soon increased by the wives of the constituent members, and by the addition of Joseph Leonard, Edward Spalding, Henry Smith, John Hubbard and their wives, and Joseph Adams, Jr., and Isaac Leonard. William Williams of Mortlake, and John Woodward of Canterbury, were elected deacons.

The church and society were quite unanimous in securing the services of Mr. Ephraim Avery of Truro, and a graduate of Harvard, to be their minister. He was duly installed September 24th, 1735. The meeting house was now more completely finished. Sundry improvements were from time to time made. In 1741 it was voted "To put a window in the minister's pew and plaster the gable ends of the meeting house." From the frequency with which the meeting house windows were out of

repair and had to be re-glazed, we are led to question the common supposition that all the villainous street boys belong to the present generation. The glass in the windows frequently required mending. About 1750 Israel Putnam and three others were allowed to build pews for themselves in place of certain "hindmost seats," provided they would mend the glass in the meeting house windows. In 1752 the glass was again so badly out of repair that it was voted "To board up the meeting house windows."

Mr. Avery was also somewhat of a medical man, and in 1754, during an epidemic, he was so overcome with continued labors attending the sick, that he fell himself beneath the hand of the disease, and thus ended both his medical and his pastoral labors. Josiah Whitney, a native of Plainfield, graduate of Yale, was next called to the pastorate. He was ordained February 4th, 1756. A remarkable circumstance associated with this occasion was the fact that the day was so fine and warm that the audience, which was too large to be accommodated in the meeting house, assembled on the Green, in the open air, where the ceremonies were conducted, the ladies meanwhile using their fans as in a summer day. Saybrook Platform was now adopted.

The church in Mortlake parish, known as the Second church of Pomfret, shared largely in the religious awakening, adding to its membership in 1741-2 one hundred and six. This church was more inclined to independence and less rigid in discipline than most of its contemporaries. Among its members were Josiah, an elder brother of John and Ebenezer Cleveland; Constance, sister of Elisha and Solomon Paine, and other Canterbury residents, all in full sympathy with the revival and eager to exercise the privilege of laboring and exhorting. On lecture day, September 10th, several brothers and sisters of the church went so far "beyond their line as to break the peace and quiet of the church" by publicly exhorting the congregation after the service. Samuel Wilson actually had the temerity to speak for some considerable time to the people on the common before the meeting house door, attempting "to teach them the wretched estate they were in, and that their help was in God, and exhorting them to come to him." Ezekiel Spalding "also spoke very loud for a little space by way of exhorting the people," and Constance Paine "was heard to speak in a very loud, earnest and resolute manner." Great clamor and confusion followed. Some de-

nounced the speakers, some encouraged them. Disputing and jangling were heard on every side, even within the sacred walls of the meeting house. Tidings of the outbreak were speedily carried to Mr. Avery. He went out and rebuked the offenders, and as the ecclesiastic head of the parish, commanded them to forbear their irregular and improper exhorting, but met with public opposition and defamation while attempting to exert his official authority. One angry citizen even charged him with lying, and another declared, "That by his own words he showed that he did not know the Spirit of God."

This affair aroused great excitement, both in church and society. On the following Sabbath, before administering the Sacrament, Mr. Avery publicly debarred these five offenders from the Lord's table till the matter could be looked into, whereupon Josiah, Ebenezer and Lydia Cleveland and Ezekiel Bacon withdrew from the meeting house "in the face of the church." A church meeting was promptly called to consider the various offenses. The two brethren, who had been led by their sympathy with the exhorters to such unseemly defamation of their good pastor, were very willing to acknowledge that their conduct had been indecent and unchristian and publicly confess the same to the congregation. The exhorters themselves, Wilson, Spalding and Constance Paine, were treated with great consideration and forbearance, and ample time and opportunity given them to procure testimony and defend themselves. After carefully weighing all the evidence presented and discussing the question in all its bearings, it was decided, October 18th, "That the church looked upon what the aforesaid Wilson, Spalding and Constance Paine did, on September 10th, as public exhorting. That public speaking, warning and exhorting of lay persons is unwarrantable and ought to be discountenanced; but inasmuch as the church has not before declared its mind in this matter, and the persons that have done this that we look upon as unwarrantable might not intend to disturb the church, and also, since they seem to think they did their duty in it—it is adjudged, That we ought to be tender with them, and that it may be most for the interest of religion as circumstances are, to pass it over for this time without requiring satisfaction, and with desiring that they would forbear this practice for time to come, as they would not disturb the peace and quiet of the church, nor expose themselves nor the church to further trouble,

begging that God would lead them and us into the ways of truth and peace."

The tenderness of the church in forbearing to exact a public confession from the exhorting brethren was entirely thrown away upon their sympathizers so long as they were restricted in liberty of speech and exhortation, and in a few days they issued the subjoined spirited manifesto:—

"POMFRET, Nov. 5, 1742.

"These are to inform you that your way of discipline and opinion declared in your last judgment against some of the subscribers, doth so fully evidence to us that you of the number that have the form of godliness and deny the power thereof, that we can in conscience hold communion no longer with you, and do thereof declare that we do dissent and withdraw from you, praying that the Lord would be our guide and direct us in such a weighty affair; also, humbly entreating the Lord for you all, that the Lord of his infinite free sovereign grace would open your eyes and lead both you and us into all truth. Rebecca Freeman, Ezekiel Spalding, Martha Spalding, Eunice Adams, John Fasset, Josiah Fasset, Benjamin Fasset, Elizabeth Fasset, Richard Adams, Ebenezer Cleveland, Samuel Wilson, Betty Wilson, Abigail Woodward, Hannah Jewell, Joseph Cady, Zachariah Whitney, Josiah Cleveland, Lydia Cleveland, Elias Sheavaler, Mary Sheavaler, Joseph Adams, Elizabeth Adams, Joshua Paine, Constance Paine."

The subsequent conduct of these dissenting members was in accordance with the spirit of this declaration. This company of offending members were called to account and admonished by the church, but without avail. Two or three confessed their errors, and were received again into the church. Richard Adams died during this year, "without giving any satisfaction." After waiting more than another year for the return of the delinquents, the church reluctantly proceeded to consider the question of excommunication. Ezekiel Spalding and Joseph Adams "appeared and pleaded, 'That they ought not to be cut off from the church.'" Fourteen of the most obstinate, refusing to retract or ask for mercy, were publicly excommunicated, December 14th, 1746. Eleven others, after further trial persisting in separation, were formally admonished, April 13th, 1748, but none appeared in church to bear the admonition, and when it was carried to their houses, some refused to touch it and some "threw it into

the fire." Most of these Separates united with the church at Canterbury. Ebenezer Cleveland and some of the more prominent seceders were finally taken back into church fellowship. The Separates in Mortlake parish were treated with unusual delicacy and forbearance, and as they failed to effect any new church organizations within its limits, their defection left no permanent breach, and scarcely impaired the strength and prosperity of the church.

A meeting house was erected in 1771, which stood a few rods southeast of the old meeting house, with "its front foreside facing the road." This building was pronounced a "very genteel meeting house," with its ample size, graceful proportions, convenient porch, handsome steeple, and all "colored white." Five seats, eleven feet long were ranged on either side of the broad alley, and the remainder of the floor was occupied by pews, each one being allowed to construct his own, though the pew space was reserved to the forty-three largest resident tax payers. By bequest of Mr. Joseph Scarborough a bell was placed in the steeple—the second church bell in the county. A clock was also placed in the steeple. The progressive spirit of the people is also shown by their vote "That an Eleclarick Rod may be set up at the new meeting house, provided it be done without cost to the society." The ringing of the bell and taking care of the meeting house were matters that were entrusted only to responsible hands, and the charge was rather a mark of honor. This new meeting house, with all its improved appointments, was to be placed in able hands, so the society conferred that honor upon its most honored public citizen by voting "That Colonel Putnam take care of the new meeting house and ring the bell at three pounds a year." When he went to the war his minister took his place as bell ringer. It was ordered "that the bell should be rung on Sabbaths, Fasts, Thanksgivings and lectures, as is customary in other places where they have bells, also at twelve at noon and nine at night.

In 1788 an appropriation of one hundred dollars was made for painting and repairs. Thirty dollars were allowed Mr. Whitney to supply himself with wood at a dollar a cord. In 1794 a singing master was employed and later considerable attention was given to recruiting the singing. The pastor, Mr. Whitney, received from Harvard College the title of Doctor of Divinity in 1802.

In consequence of the increasing years and infirmities of Doctor Whitney, Mr. Luther Wilson of New Braintree, was ordained colleague pastor of the Congregational church and society in 1813, which position he filled with fidelity and acceptance till it was found that he had embraced the Socinian or Unitarian views, then becoming so prevalent in Massachusetts. Although the Brooklyn church was but moderately Calvinistic in belief and very liberal in its practice, these views broached by Mr. Wilson fell so much below its standard as to awaken apprehension of disastrous results. But already a strong party sympathized with Mr. Wilson in his belief and desired his continuance. A majority of the church favored Doctor Whitney and Captain Tyler; a society majority sympathized with Mr. Wilson and Esquire Parish. The Unitarian controversy was exciting very great interest and alarm all over the land, and the ministers of the county joyfully hastened to join in the fray. February 5th, 1817, the county consociation met at the house of Captain Tyler. Moses C. Welch, D.D., the great champion of orthodoxy, was chosen moderator. Mr. Wilson and the church minority obeyed the summons to appear before the consociation, but challenged its right of jurisdiction. The consociation, however, declared Mr. Wilson disqualified, and the pastoral relation dissolved.

The adherents of Mr. Wilson declined to accept these decisions, and as a majority of the society, proceeded to exercise control of the meeting house. At a society meeting, March 3d, 1816, it was voted that no persons except the ministers of the society, and those belonging to the Eastern Association, should be allowed to hold religious meeting in this house without a written permit from its committee. Mr. Wilson was requested to preach whenever Doctor Whitney did not occupy the pulpit. Much confusion and strife followed. The aged pastor went far beyond his strength in attempting to preach twice on every Sabbath to keep out the deposed colleague, and when at his special and earnest request Mr. Preston of Providence occupied the pulpit without obtaining the requisite order, the intruder was prosecuted by the society.

Mr. Wilson himself called a council in September to advise as to the action of consociation and the condition of things in general. The council decided to dismiss Mr. Wilson from his unpleasant position. But the breach grew wider and at last the

society, which had become decidedly Unitarian in its sentiment, locked the doors of the meeting house against the congregation and church gathered to hear Doctor Whitney preach. A Unitarian minister from Massachusetts was placed in the pulpit and the society levied taxes for his support.

Thus driven from their elegant house of worship, the distressed church hired the unfinished attic of a dwelling house for a room in which to hold religious services, and called upon the County Association to supply them with preachers. Different ones preached to them for a time. March 3d, 1819, all hopes of reconciliation being abandoned, the church voted a final remonstrance to John Parish, John Williams and Deacon Roger W. Williams, and withdrew from them its watch and care. It continued its meetings in the upper chamber and now began to look for a permanent place of worship. In 1821 they were able to complete a chapel for this purpose, and different ministers aided Doctor Whitney in his pastoral labors. In the following summer a Sabbath school was organized, its first superintendent being Amos Prince, recently removed hither from Pomfret. In April, 1824, Ambrose Edson of Stafford was ordained and installed colleague pastor, on which pleasant occasion the use of the great meeting house was magnanimously tendered by the First society. Though in his ninety-fourth year, Doctor Whitney was still erect and vigorous, his eye not dimmed nor his natural force abated. With flowing wig and antique garb he was often seen upon the street, exchanging pleasant greetings and happy repartees with his dear friends and neighbors. His face beamed with animation and his playful sallies were tempered by Christian dignity. As he entered the house of God, the congregation were wont to rise and remain standing in respectful attitude until he was seated. He died in 1824, thus closing an exceptionally long pastorate, covering about sixty-nine years, with this church. Mr. Edson now continued in sole pastoral charge of the church. His pastorate closed in 1830, and he was followed by George J. Tillotson of Farmington, who was ordained and installed May 25th, 1831. A revival soon followed and the membership was largely increased. The larger congregations called for better accommodations and a larger church was built in 1832. The pastorate of Reverend George J. Tillotson extended to March 10th, 1858, when he was dismissed. He was followed by Edward Miles, as a stated supply from November, 1858, to November, 1859. Rev-

erend C. N. Seymour was installed December 21st, 1859, and remained until September, 1873. He was succeeded by Reverend Edwin S. Beard, who was installed December 30th, 1873, and retains the pastorate to the present time. The present church edifice was erected in 1832. A chapel near it was built about 1864. A parsonage has never been owned by the society since the time of Doctor Whitney. The parsonage which he owned is still standing on the south side of the Common and facing upon Main street. It is now occupied by Mr. Daniel B. Hatch of New York. The Sunday school in connection with it has about 100 pupils and teachers.

The Unitarian sentiment, as we have already seen, was developed in this town under the preaching of Reverend Luther Wilson, as colleague pastor with Doctor Whitney, between the years 1813 and 1816. The First Ecclesiastical society of Brooklyn adopted these sentiments and barred the doors of the meeting house against Doctor Whitney and his church. They then obtained a Unitarian minister from Massachusetts and asserted and exercised their right to use the house for the promulgation of Unitarian doctrines. They secured for their pastor Mr. Samuel J. May, a young man of vigorous intellect, good education and wide, philanthropic sympathies, who was ordained over them March 13th, 1822. The ministry of Mr. May was most acceptable and beneficial to his own people and the community at large. Entering with his whole heart and soul into all the great questions of the day, he carried others with him. Through his efforts the Windham County Peace Society was organized. This society was organized August 16th, 1826, and had for its object the discouragement of the inhuman and unchristian practice of war. Its membership included ministers and some leading men of most of the towns of this county, and some from outside of the county. It had a good influence, and did much good in disseminating information and enlightening the public conscience. The temperance cause found in Mr. May an earnest, methodical, aggressive and untiring advocate. In the cause of public education he engaged with such zeal that many needed reforms were instituted, and his influence in this was felt throughout the state. Editing religious newspapers, establishing a village lyceum, lecturing and preaching in different localities throughout the county also claimed their share of his enthusiasm and tireless labor. These incessant calls to

varied fields of labor induced Mr. May to leave the pastorate of this society, which he did October 16th, 1836. His immediate successor was Reverend George W. Kilton, who began December 1st, 1836, and was followed in 1837 by Reverend William Coe, who remained about four years. Supplies followed for short periods. An alteration in the interior of the church building was made in 1845. A floor was laid at the level of the gallery, so as to make the building two stories. The upper room was rededicated for church uses May 1st, 1845, while the lower room was set apart as a town hall, in which use it still continues. Reverend Herman Snow began preaching here in November, 1844, and continued until December, 1846. Samuel May served one year in 1847. Jacob Ferris began a pastorate of about two years May 1st, 1848. Reverend George G. Channing, a brother of the celebrated William Ellery Channing, began preaching here on the first Sunday in May, 1850, and closed his term June 20th, 1852. Reverend C. Y. De Normandie began pastoral labor here July 11th, 1852, was ordained December 1st of the same year, and remained till September, 1856. He was succeeded by Reverend Henry Lewis Myrick, whose term began January 4th, 1857, continuing about two years. A year of temporary supplies followed. Reverend Mr. Channing returned and remained from November 11th, 1860, to November 24th, 1861. Lay services filled up the space from that date till April 16th, 1862, when Reverend Mr. Channing returned again and remained till November 9th of the same year. Reverend Thomas T. Stone, D.D., served the church from March, 1863, to August, 1871. Mrs. Celia Burleigh began preaching in August, 1871, and was ordained October 5th of the same year. She continued nominally pastor until her death, July 25th, 1875, though she had assistance in pastoral labors on account of ill health for some time. Mrs. Caroline R. James began preaching in October, 1877, and was ordained October 9th, 1878. She resigned November 6th, 1881. Temporary supplies now filled the pulpit until the coming of Reverend A. J. Culp to the church in June, 1885. His pastorate closed January 1st, 1889. His successor, Reverend Silas W. Sutton, began his labors here April 20th, 1889. He lives in the house which was built for Reverend Mr. May as a parsonage, but afterward sold to private parties and now rented. A parsonage was built by the society, which still retains the name of the First Ecclesiastical society of Brooklyn, about 1853,

but this was afterward sold. The present membership of the church is about twenty-five.

The Episcopal church of Brooklyn had its beginnings in the efforts of Colonel Godfrey Malbone to avoid paying taxes toward the erection of a church about the year 1769. Colonel Malbone, previous to this had, without protest, paid taxes on his large estate here toward the support of the town church, but when a new meeting house was talked of, to be erected at great expense, he determined to exercise his own inclinations, which were naturally toward the church of England. He enlisted the interest of his friends in the work, and a subscription paper was circulated, to which the names of nineteen heads of families were obtained, agreeing to become members of an Episcopal church as soon as meeting house and missionary should be provided. Through Malbone's influence help was obtained from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, an eligible site was obtained on the Adams tract, south of Malbone's land, given by Azariah Adams, and arrangements were immediately made for the erection of a building. In April, 1770, the following persons petitioned to be liberated from paying taxes to the town church on the ground that they were interested and contributing toward the Episcopal church: Godfrey Malbone, Joseph Hubbard, Jerre Cleveland, Timothy Lowe, Jedidiah Ashcraft, Sr., Ahaziah Adams, Jacob Staple, Daniel McCloud, Caleb Spalding, Benjamin Jewett, John Allyn, John Wheeler, Leonard Cady, Noah Adams, Henry Cady, Thomas Adams, Isaac Adams, Samuel Adams, Elisha Adams, James Darbe, Jr., Jonathan Wheeler, Jacob Greer, William Walton, Jonas Cleveland, Jabez Allyn, Nehemiah Adams, Benjamin Cady, John Ashcraft, Seth Sabin and James Eldridge. The assembly granted the desired relief to Malbone, as a well-known churchman, but refused it to his associates on the ground of insufficient evidence of their sincerity.

Church building, however, went forward, and by April 1st, 1771, the new building was ready for use. This was a neat, unpretentious edifice, in its interior arrangements closely following the model of Trinity church in Newport. In the mean time Malbone frequently himself took the character of the priestly office and drilled his proselytes in the church ritual, of which he declared, "they were ignorant as so many of the Iroquois." The novelty of the service attracted many hearers. The Reverend

John Tyler, church missionary at Norwich, preached in Ashcraft's house in February, and officiated at the public opening of the new building in April. The latter event was one of importance historically, as it was the first formal dedication service performed in Windham county. Reverend Samuel Peters, church missionary at Hebron, assisted in the ceremonies. In September, 1771, Mr. Richard Mosely, of Boston, who had been chaplain in the British naval service, began conducting services and preaching here, meanwhile preaching and lecturing at times in Plainfield and Canterbury. He continued in the field until the following April. He was succeeded in May, 1772, by Reverend Daniel Fogg, a sober, quiet, discreet and devout man, who was received upon the recommendation of clergymen in Boston. About twenty-five families were enrolled as his parishioners. His salary, thirty pounds a year from the English society, and thirty pounds from this church, amounted to sixty pounds a year.

The Episcopal worship fell into disfavor after the breaking out of the war. All good patriots fell away and only avowed royalists remained in the church connection. Prayers for the king and royal family were no longer in order, and as Mr. Fogg thought it inconsistent with his ordination vows to omit them, public service was suspended. Trinity church was closed and its congregation scattered. Mr. Fogg remained quietly at his post of duty, ministering to his few faithful followers, and conducting himself "in so quiet and peaceable a manner," as to retain the confidence and respect of the community.

After the war the church also lost its chief supporter, by the death of Colonel Malbone. Doctor Walton, another zealous advocate of royalty and the church of England, had also removed. The missionary society also withdrew its aid. In this condition the prospect was extremely discouraging, but Mr. Fogg held bravely on and strove to strengthen the things that remained. Thirty acres of land which Colonel Malbone had intended for a glebe were confirmed to the parish by his brother, John Malbone, in 1787. Other able adherents of the church who came to the neighborhood about this time were Captain Evan Malbone and Doctor John Fuller. The faithful rector, Reverend Daniel Fogg, died in 1815, after forty-three years' service for this church. The church at that time numbered thirty-one communicants. After three years of irregular worship, Rever-

end George S. White accepted the pastoral charge, remaining two years. During this time a parsonage was begun.

Trinity church, after a long period of irregular service, which followed the pastorate of Mr. White, entered upon a new lease of life in 1828, Reverend Ezra B. Kellogg being at that time inducted into the rectorate. Glebe and parsonage were now redeemed to the use of the parish, and the church edifice was repaired and remodelled. When the Reverend Josiah M. Bartlett succeeded Mr. Kellogg in 1835, the parish was self-supporting, with thirty-one families and forty-five communicants. Colonel Daniel Putnam, whose wife was a niece of Godfrey Malbone, and who had been senior warden and one of the staunchest friends of the church, died in 1831. This great loss was in some degree made up by gradually increasing numbers and a higher tone in church life and public worship. Reverend Riverius Camp entered upon the rectorship in 1837. After a long term in the ministerial office here, he died in 1875. During this time an elegant new church was erected. This was completed in 1866. The hundredth birthday of the society was appropriately celebrated in the "old Malbone church," April 12th, 1871. A special fund given by the late George Brinley, of Hartford, provides for the continued preservation of this memorial edifice and its hallowed graveyard. Reverend S. F. Jarvis became pastor of Trinity church in 1874, and remains at the present time. A handsome rectory was built in 1887.

The Baptist church of Brooklyn was constituted April 23d, 1828. Its first members were: Denison Cady, Elisha Adams, Philemon Adams, Nathan Williams, Eleazer Mather, Alfred Ashcraft, Edwin Cady, Gideon Arnold, David C. Bolles, Lathrop Cushman, John Searls, Hannah Cady, Fanny Mather, Sarah Adams, Deborah Adams, Priscilla Arnold, Catherine Ashcraft, Ann Ashcraft, Lydia Cady, Mary Adams, Almira Pidge, Mary Darbe, Olive Arnold, Miranda Adams, Flora Adams, Fanny Bolles, Eliza Cady, Emily Cady, Wealthy Tarbox, Elizabeth Searls, Catherine Cushman, Betsy Adams, Sally Ann Adams, Mary Cady, Lucy Wilcox. The first deacons were Denison Cady and Elisha Adams. The first clerk was David C. Bolles. The church was organized under the leadership of Reverend William Bently. David Bolles was ordained September 30th, 1830. Thomas Huntington was ordained September 30th, 1834. Benjamin Brown was chosen deacon in 1840, and still continues in that office. From about

1830 to 1840 the church was in a low state, and for some time no meetings were held. Reverend Augustus Bolles preached during the summer of 1847. Reverend Sylvester Barrows commenced preaching here May 30th, 1852, and continued through a remarkably long pastorate, closing about the last of March, 1869. Reverend Thomas Terry, of Quidnick, succeeded to the pastorate, May 2d, 1869, and served the church till February 26th, 1882. Reverend O. P. Bessey began May 1st, 1882, and continued till November 9th, 1884. His successor was Reverend William Gussman, who entered the pastorate here February 1st, 1885, and left it at the last end of 1886. Reverend Edwin Bennett, the present pastor, was ordained here February 8th, 1888. The first house of worship owned by this church was the old chapel of the Congregational church, which they gave up for their new meeting house in 1832. This church bought it then and used it nearly forty years, enlarging it in the meantime as occasion required. The present handsome brick church, standing on the south side of the common, was built in 1871, and dedicated May 8th, 1872. A parsonage was bought of Arthur Bill, of Danielsonville, adjoining the court house a short time since. The cost of the brick church, including the lot and furniture, was \$10,954.64. The present membership of the church is about 130. During the present pastorate forty-eight have been added. The Sunday school at its last report numbered 121.

The factory village of Wauregan is partly within this township at its southeastern corner. Within this town is the Roman Catholic church called Sacred Heart. The building was erected in 1872, and opened for service in June of that year. A cemetery and ground connected with it contains twenty-four acres. This field was a mission of All Hallows church at Moosup until May, 1889, when it was made a distinct parish, and a local pastor, Reverend Arthur O'Keefe, placed in charge of it. A parochial residence is about to be built. The church building has a seating capacity of about 800. It is a frame building and having lately been renewed in its interior, is one of the finest country churches in the state. The parish contains about 1,360 Catholic souls, the larger part of them being French Canadians. A St. John Baptist Society connected with the parish, numbers about 75 members. It was organized in the early part of the present year.

Mystical Rose Council, No. 49, of the Knights of Columbus, was organized at Wauregan in December, 1888. The first officers, installed January 12th, 1889, were: John Driscoll, grand knight; James Ward, Jr., D. G. K.; Reverend Thomas S. Shanley, chaplain; Michael J. Gleason, F. S.; Simeion J. Jacques, R. S.; Nelson Willett, treasurer; Patrick Reid, C.; Napoleon Ouimette, I. G.; Eusebe Roy, O. G.; Simon Bousquet, W.; Reverend John A. Creedon, C. B. T. The Council has now 34 members. Its prominent object is assurance, a benefit in case of sickness being given its members and \$1,000 at death.

A society of the Children of Mary is connected with Sacred Heart church. It was organized in the latter part of 1887. The first officers were: Mary Gleason, president; Miss Nora Shea, vice-president; and Miss Kate Murray, treasurer.

The charter for the Windham County Bank was granted July 4th, 1822. The bank was located at the then new county seat, Brooklyn. Its first board of thirteen directors were: Joseph Eaton, Vine Robinson, John McClellan, James Gordon, Jr., Samuel L. Hough, Ebenezer Young, Charles Sabin, David Bolles, Thomas Hubbard, Andrew J. Judson, Eben. Williamson, E. C. Eaton, Rufus Adams. The first president was Joseph Eaton; the first cashier, Adams White. A neat new building soon accommodated this institution, which was regarded with much pride and favor by the citizens of this village. The successive presidents have been: Joseph Eaton, 1822 to 1847; Daniel P. Tyler, 1847 to 1848; Adams White, 1848 to 1856; E. S. Chase, 1856 to 1857; John Gallup, 3d, 1857 to 1880; John Palmer, 1880 to the present time. The office of cashier from the beginning has been held by the following: Adams White, Jr., 1822 to 1837; Charles White, 1837 to 1847; Edwin S. Chase, 1848 to 1855; A. F. Fisher, 1856 to 1865; C. C. Crandall, 1865 to 1876; John P. Wood, 1876 to the present time. The bank was reorganized under the national banking act, in June, 1865, and its organization extended in 1885. It reports a capital of \$108,300, and a surplus of \$3,000. The present directors are: John Palmer, David Greenslit, John Waldo, John S. Searls, Walter Palmer, Benjamin A. Bailey, Comfort S. Burlingame, Henry A. Atkins, William H. Putnam, Lyman Fitts, Walter P. Webb, Charles G. Williams, Stephen N. Bennett.

The Brooklyn Savings Bank was incorporated in May, 1872, and commenced business on the 2d of September following. The

original corporators were: Apollos Richmond, John Gallup, 2d, Cranston C. Crandall, Daniel C. Robinson, Henry M. Cleveland, Edward L. Crandall, John Palmer, James B. Whitcomb, Albert Day, John S. Searls, John Hyde, Aaron H. Storrs, Edwin Scarborough, Charles G. Williams, William H. Putnam, Thomas S. Marlor, Gideon Gurnett, Lewis Searls, Alva Wylie, Willard Leavens and Enos L. Preston. The presidents of the bank have been: Apollos Richmond, from the organization to July, 1876; William Searls, July, 1876, to July, 1878; William Woodbridge, July, 1878, to August, 1888; Marvin H. Sanger, August, 1888, to the present time. The office of secretary and treasurer has been held by: Cranston C. Crandall, from the organization to July, 1876; Clarence A. Potter, from July, 1876, to the present time. The first board of trustees were: Apollos Richmond, Daniel C. Robinson, Cranston C. Crandall, John Gallup, 2d, John Palmer, Albert Day, Alva Wylie, Gideon Gurnett, Willard Leavens and Enos L. Preston. The present board of trustees are: Marvin H. Sanger, Frank E. Baker, Clarence A. Potter, John Palmer, William H. Putnam, John P. Wood, Thomas R. Baxter, Alfred Pray and Preston B. Sibley. The deposits October 1st, 1888, amounted to \$653,592.

The Windham County Mutual Fire Insurance Company was incorporated in June, 1826, upon the petition of Vine Robinson, Adams White, Jr., Daniel Tyler, and many other prominent men. Vine Robinson was chosen president; Adams White, secretary; and Joseph Eaton, Andrew T. Judson, George Larned and John McClellan, directors. The institution met with general favor, and secured patronage from all parts of the county. The first president and secretary held their respective positions for many years. In 1847 the first had been changed, and Asahel Hammond was president, while Mr. White still continued as secretary. Ten years later Aaron H. Storrs had succeeded as president, and not many years after that date David Greenslit became its president, and he still holds that position. John Palmer became secretary about 1857, and still occupies that office. The company has a surplus of \$36,434.12. It has continued to prosper, making no assessments and suffering few losses, insuring apparently from fire as well as from accruing damage, and its surplus might excite the envy of many a more pretentious institution.

The first agricultural society in this county, if not the first in the state, was organized in the town of Pomfret, under the name of the Pomfret United Agricultural Society. Its membership was from the three towns of Woodstock, Pomfret and Brooklyn. At a meeting of the society December 19th, 1809, which was the date of its organization, the following officers were elected: Benjamin Duick, president; Amos Paine, John Williams, vice-presidents; Sylvanus Backus, treasurer; Darius Matthewson of Brooklyn, Benjamin Duick of Pomfret, James McClellan of Woodstock, committee of correspondence. This society held fairs with more or less regularity from that time forward, until it enlarged its field of operations and influence by securing incorporation as the Windham County Agricultural Society, the act being passed May 20th, 1820. The first meeting of the society in its new form was held on the third Monday in January, 1821, at the tavern of Peter Thompson, in Pomfret. The following officers were then elected: Thomas Hubbard, president; Darius Matthewson and Amos Paine, vice-presidents; Samuel Howard, treasurer; James McClellan, secretary. This society for a number of years held its fairs alternately in the towns of Pomfret and Woodstock. When held in Pomfret they occupied the grounds around a public tavern, which stood where now stands a dwelling house formerly owned by the late Doctor Lewis Williams. In Woodstock they were held near what was then known as Bowen's Tavern. The cattle pens stood in the rear of and near where the academy now stands. The business of the society was in after years moved to Brooklyn, where it settled down to a permanent abiding place, and has for many years held its fairs, and is now in a prosperous condition. The fair grounds, about a half mile south of the village green, contain about ten acres, and have a half mile track and exhibition hall and sheds, and many other buildings for the accommodation of exhibitions. Fairs are held for three days in succession, much interest is taken, and many people are in attendance. Efforts are being made to make the fair of the present year superior to anything ever known before. The society had fallen into some lethargy about forty years ago, but in 1852 it was revived and reorganized. Since that time the interest in it has been well maintained. The following men have succeeded to the office of president of the society since that time:

Colonel William Alexander, 1852; Colonel Erastus Lester, 1853; Hon. C. F. Cleveland, 1854; Calvin D. Williams, 1855; Ezra

Dean, 1856; David Gallup, 1857; Charles Mathewson, 1858; Apollos Richmond, 1859-61; Edwin Scarborough, 1862-63; George A. Paine, 1864; Sabin L. Sayles, 1865; Charles Osgood, 1866; Ralph W. Robinson, 1867-68; Albert Day, 1869; Joseph D. Bates, 1870-71; George Sanger, 1872-73; James M. Johnson, 1874; Arnold B. Fenner, 1875-76; John Dimon, 1877-78; John W. Griggs, 1879; Alexander Warner, 1880-81; Gurdon Cady, 1882-83; George M. Holt, 1884-85; Thomas J. Evans, 1886-87; Frank Day, 1888-89. The membership of the society at present is 386. The treasurer's report for the year ending June 1st, 1889, shows disbursements for the year amounting to \$2,085.08, including premiums paid, \$1,168.05. The proceeds of the fair in 1888 amounted to \$1,246.68.

The Brooklyn Creamery is located about one mile from the village of Brooklyn, and three miles from the N. & W. railroad. It was erected and ready for operations May 1st, 1888. The creamery building is of wood, 27x46 feet, and one and a half stories high above the basement, which is finished and used as a tenement, except about twelve feet of one end, which is reserved for the company. The basement is the same dimensions, and ten feet high, built of brick and stone, and is used for an engine and coal room 11x27 feet; work room, 20x27 feet; cream room, 15x15 feet; using for power a Baxter engine and boiler 6x6. The company have also erected an ice house 20x24 feet, and three open sheds, walled in their grounds, there being one-half acre, and graded up around the buildings, making them attractive and very convenient. The company made during the six months ending November 1st, 1888, 33,287 pounds of butter, taking 6.28 spaces for a pound, and at a cost of 5 cents per pound for manufacturing, including interest on capital, stock and all running expenses. The building has a capacity for 600 pounds daily. The Brooklyn Creamery Company have a paid-up capital of \$3,750, owned mostly by the patrons, and their buildings, management and success will compare favorably with the other creameries of the state.

As we have already said, the principal industry of this town is agriculture. Its manufacturing interests are very limited. Grist, saw and shingle mills are operated in different parts by Henry D. Bassett, Asa D. Bennett and Eugene S. Young. Saw mills are also operated by W. R. Cheney and John Braman. The mill owned by the latter was, in the early part of the cen-

tury, used as a blacksmith shop, with a trip-hammer run by water. It was then owned by one William Foster. It was afterward used as a sash and blind shop by Jared Collar. Thence it was transformed into a shop for the manufacture of gold pens, pencils and spectacles by one Bard. The present owner carries on in it the manufacture of picker stick handles, shuttle blocks, cloth boards, planing, fine sawing and mill supplies generally. The manufacture of watch cases was for a time carried on here by E. L. Preston, but the business was suspended about ten or twelve years since. Edwin Newbury carried on the manufacture of gold spectacles. His business suspended in 1876. Richmond & Atwood's silk mill stood in the southern part of the village. It stopped work in 1878, and the building has since been converted into a barn by the present owner, Mr. Henry S. Marlor.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

WILLIAM H. PUTNAM.—Mr. Putnam is a lineal descendant of that brave general and distinguished patriot, Israel Putnam, whose son, Daniel Putnam, was the grandfather of the subject of this biography. William, one of his sons, married Mary Spalding, whose children were: Caroline M., Harriet W., William H., Elizabeth, Asa S., Jane, Anne, and three who died in early life. William H. Putnam was born February 2d, 1812, in Holland, Massachusetts, and in childhood removed to Brooklyn, where the residue of his life was passed. The best schools obtainable at that early day afforded him a knowledge of the elementary branches, and the work connected with his father's farm occupied his time until after his marriage.

On the 12th of March, 1834, he was united to Miss Eliza, daughter of Captain John Day, of Brooklyn, who died on the 27th of May, 1880. Their children are: Harriet G., Mary, wife of James Perkins; John D., Sarah, deceased; Kate B. and Albert D. Mr. Putnam, two years after his marriage, leased the farm belonging to Captain Day, of which he finally became the owner. He cultivated its fertile acres, and made it his residence until 1877, the year of his removal to the village of Brooklyn, his son, Albert D., meanwhile succeeding to his farming interests.

Mr. Putnam interested himself in matters pertaining to his town, and as a republican held various local offices. His prevailing modesty and aversion to the excitement attending a

public career, influenced him to decline more important honors. His advice was often sought on questions requiring maturity of judgment and experience, his opinions invariably commanding respectful consideration. He was a director of the Windham County National Bank, and the Brooklyn Savings Bank. Mr. Putnam was a member of Trinity Protestant Episcopal church of Brooklyn, of which he was for many years senior warden.

GEORGE SCARBOROUGH was born in Brooklyn, Conn., July 28th, 1806. His parents were Samuel and Molly Cleaveland Scarborough, worthy representatives of respected ancestors. For twenty-three years George Scarborough lived the farmer's life, early entering on its arduous labors and working from April to December fifteen hours a day. His educational privileges were such as four winter months each year in a country school could afford. This school he attended until he was sixteen years of age, when he became an instructor instead of pupil, working hard through spring, summer and autumn, and teaching during the winter. In his twenty-fourth year, while still teaching and doing his farm work, he began his study of Latin and Greek. In 1832 he went to the distinguished scientific school in Troy, N. Y.—the "Rensselaer Institute"—in which he passed nearly two years. In 1834 he entered the Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., to prepare for the Christian ministry, but at the end of a year of diligent study in the Hebrew and other departments, impaired health compelled him to leave New England and seek a milder climate.

In November of 1835 he started for New Orleans, but when the steamboat, on which he had taken passage at Pittsburgh, Penn., reached the mouth of the Ohio, the Mississippi was so blocked with ice from its more northern tributaries that the captain felt obliged to retrace his way as far as Cincinnati. On this return trip Mr. Scarborough left the boat at Owensboro', Ky. On conversing with some of the most intelligent citizens he found that the town offered an opportunity for an earnest and persistent teacher. He immediately opened a school for girls and boys, in which he gave instruction in English literature, the classics, mathematics and in natural science and natural history. The school was of high order, the instruction very thorough, the discipline firm and kind, entirely without corporal punishment, and the whole mental and moral influence such as to win the gratitude and command the respect not only of the pupils but of the whole com-



Wm. H. Putnam

munity. For twenty years Mr. Scarborough continued this admirable school. In 1857 and 1858 he made a long tour abroad, traveling through most of the central and southern countries of Europe, visiting Egypt, Palestine and Syria, and returning through Greece. After reaching home Mr. Scarborough was chosen "Professor of Chemistry" in the "Eclectic Medical School" at Memphis, Tenn., but on account of the troubled state of our country at the time he did not accept the position. In 1860 he removed from Owensboro', Ky., to Atchison, Kansas, where he lived eight years, and then went to Vineland, N. J., where he resided from 1868 to 1881, when he went to Brooklyn, N. Y., whence he removed in 1887 to his native town, which he had never ceased to regard with affection, and which is no less dear to him now, 1889, in his eighty-third year, than it was in early days.

All through his life Mr. Scarborough has been a close observer and loving student of nature, and gradually had formed a fine herbarium and valuable mineralogical and geological cabinet, which, during his residence in Brooklyn, N. Y., he gave to the Long Island Historical Society, of which he was a member, and by which his most generous gift—the "Scarborough Collection"—is highly appreciated.

Wherever he has lived, Mr. Scarborough has taken a deep interest in all that pertained to the mental, moral and spiritual welfare of society. A thorough-going temperance man—a "Total Abstinence" man—from early manhood, always a firm, unshrinking friend and advocate of freedom, to no good cause has he been indifferent. During his many years in Owensboro' and Vineland he superintended a Sunday school, and never was away from his post, except because of sickness or absence from the country. Few "public" lives have been richer in deep and abiding influence—and influence of the best kind, most helpful to noble manhood and womanhood, to true citizenship—than the modest, unostentatious life of this faithful, accomplished educator, this loyal son of Windham.

The genealogy of the Scarborough family (in part):

1. John Scarborough of Roxbury, Mass., married May 13th, 1640, Mary, sister of Robert Smith of Boston, Mass., formerly of London, Eng.
2. Samuel, son of John, born January 20th, 1646.
3. Samuel, born 12th October, 1680; married Theoda Williams February 5th, 1706.

4. Jeremiah, son of Samuel³, born 12th November, 1713; married Miss Holbrook of Abington.

5. Samuel, son of Jeremiah, born August 3d, 1740; married Mary Amidon of Mendon, Mass., October 23d, 1770.

6. Samuel, son of Samuel⁵, born 13th March, 1773; married Molly Cleaveland Gilbert October 7th, 1803. He served his native town of Brooklyn faithfully for many years as one of the selectmen, town clerk and justice of the peace.

7. His children were David, born 13th December, 1803; George, born 28th July, 1806; Perrin, born September, 1808, and Edwin, born 21st February, 1811.

EDWIN SCARBOROUGH.—“On Wednesday afternoon, October 10th, 1877, Brooklyn and Windham county lost one of the truest and best of men in the death of Mr. Edwin Scarborough. For several years increasing feebleness of body had warned our esteemed friend that he was walking very near that mysterious line which divides the here from the hereafter, but the marching orders to cross came to him suddenly at last. Mr. S. was a public-spirited citizen; a large-hearted, generous neighbor; a loving parent; a man of culture—one who had the courage of his convictions upon political or religious matters, and yet liberal and courteous to all who differed from him. The world was made better because Edwin Scarborough lived in it—and one cannot help thinking that true hearts would not be so willing to leave their earthly home if they here met only such trusty and charitable souls. Every cause that had for its aim the elevation and happiness of men found in him a firm supporter. He was the friend of temperance, anti-slavery and education through all his active career. He was intellectually superior, with a strong endowment of common sense. But his superiority lay in his heart culture. He was an ornament and pillar to our county. With many of our fellow-citizens we feel the death of Mr. S. as a personal loss, and we indite this brief tribute with no ordinary feeling of regret, for his loss seems to us almost irreparable.”



Wm. Ferguson, Sc. 1872

Geo. Scarborough.

CHAPTER XXVI.

THE TOWN OF STERLING.

Geographical Description.—The Volunteers' Land.—Settlement as Voluntown.—Division of the Land.—Town Privileges.—Presbyterian Church Organized.—Lands Laid Out.—Sterling Town Organized.—Meeting House Erected.—General Progress.—Public Highways.—School Matters.—The Voluntown and Sterling Church.—Line Meeting House.—Sterling Hill Baptist Church.—Other Churches.—Manufacturing.—Rocks and Quarries.—Oneco.—Decline of Manufactures.—The Grange.—Biographical Sketches.

THE township of Sterling occupies the southeast corner of the county, being bounded on the north by Killingly, east by Rhode Island, south by Voluntown (formerly a town of Windham county, but recently transferred to New London county), and west by Plainfield. The town is nine miles long from north to south, and has an average width of three miles. It is centrally distant from Hartford 49 miles and from New Haven 73 miles. It contains an area of twenty-seven square miles. Much of the land is hilly or swampy. The town is well drained by the Quanduck and Cedar Swamp branches of Moosup river. It contains valuable building stones, which are quarried to some extent. Sterling hill, in the western part, is the original settlement, and occupies an eminence, furnishing a delightful view of the surrounding country. The town is crossed near the center by the Providence Division of the N. Y. & N. E. railroad. Large quantities of railroad ties are cut from the woods of the town. Farming and manufacturing form the industrial interests of the town. Its population at different periods has been : In 1800, 908 ; in 1840, 1,099 ; 1870, 1,022 ; 1880, 957. The grand list of the town in 1800 was \$20,873 ; in 1847, \$11,791 ; in 1857, \$13,447 ; and 1887, \$259,263. The number of children between the ages of four and sixteen in 1858 was 280 ; in 1881, 227 ; and in 1887, 197. The post offices of Sterling, Oneco, Ekonk and North Sterling are in this town.

In October, 1696, Lieutenant Thomas Leffingwell, of Norwich, and Sergeant John Frink, of Stonington, moved the general

court, "that they, with the rest of the English volunteers in former wars, might have a plantation granted to them." A tract of land six miles square was granted in answer to this request, "to be taken up out of some of the conquered land," its bounds to be prescribed and settlement regulated by persons appointed by the court. The volunteers sent "out upon the discovery" of a suitable tract, found their choice very limited. Major Fitch, the Winthrops and others had already appropriated the greater part of the conquered lands, and the only available tract remaining within Connecticut limits was a strip bordering on Rhode Island, a few miles east of Norwich, and upon reporting this "discovery" to the general court, "Captain Samuel Mason, Mr. John Gallup, and Lieutenant James Avery were appointed a committee to view the said tract, and to consider whether it be suitable for entertainment of a body of people that may be able comfortably to carry on plantation work, or what addition of land may be necessary to accommodate a body of people for comfortable subsistence in a plantation way." After taking three years for viewing and considering, the committee reported favorably, and in October, 1700, Lieutenant Leffingwell, Richard Bushnell, Isaac Wheeler, Caleb Fobes, Samuel Bliss, Joseph Morgan and Manasseh Minor moved for its confirmation to the volunteers, which was granted, "so far as it concur with the former act of the General Assembly, provided it bring not the Colony into any inconvenience" or, as afterward expressed, "do not prejudice any former grant of the court." A large part of the tract thus granted is now comprised in the town of Voluntown. Its original bounds were nearly identical with those of the present township, save that eastward it extended to Pawcatuck river.

Little now can be learned of the primitive condition of this region. It was a waste, barren frontier, overrun by various tribes of Indians, and after the Narragansett war, claimed by the Mohegans. Massashowitt, sachem of Quinebaug, also claimed rights in it. No Indians are believed to have occupied it after the war, nor were any white inhabitants found on it when made over to the volunteers.

Some years passed before the division was completed. After the disputed Mohegan claim was settled a survey of the land was made in 1705. This land extended from the north bounds of Stonington northward to the Whetstone country, being a

tract some twenty miles long, and from three to six miles in width. Its original quantity was diminished somewhat by the encroachment of the Rhode Island line, but after that had been established the tract was substantially the same as that now occupied by the towns of Voluntown and Sterling. One hundred and sixty persons had enrolled themselves as desirous of sharing in the benefit of this grant, and the land was distributed among them by a drawing made April 6th, 1706. These drawers of lots were residents of New London, Norwich, Stonington, Windham, Plainfield and other neighboring towns. The list comprised not only officers and soldiers, but ministers, chaplains and many who had served the colony in civil capacity as well as military, during the war. Samuel Fish was probably the first settler on this tract, but at what point his settlement had been made (it being already there), we are not informed. Very few of the "volunteers" took personal possession of their allotments. Some of the proprietors sold out their rights at an early date, receiving five, six, eight, eleven and twelve pounds for an allotment. Others retained their shares and rented out farms on them whenever practicable. These first divisions were made in the southern part of the tract surveyed and most, if not all of the first land divisions and operations were probably within the limits of the present town of Voluntown. Northward lay the vacant land east of Plainfield. This land was petitioned for both by Plainfield and Voluntown. Some few had already obtained possession of lands here and had made improvements upon them. Reverend Mr. Coit, of Plainfield, had received a grant of three hundred acres north of Egunk hill, and he conveyed it to Francis Smith and Miles Jordan. Smith soon put up a mill and opened his house for the accommodation of travelers. Smith and Jordan, in 1714, erected a bridge over the river there, and received in payment 150 acres of land on the Providence road. This convenient road and pleasant locality soon attracted other settlers—John Smith, Ebenezer and Thomas Dow, Robert and John Parke, Robert Williams, Nathaniel French and others. In May, 1719, this vacant country was annexed to Voluntown, by act of the assembly, a strip one mile in width across the north end being reserved as public land. The settlers who were established in the vacant land had their purchases confirmed to them by the assembly, in October, 1719, on condition that each should "have a tenantable house and settle themselves within the space

of three years and continue to live there three years after such settlement, upon the forfeiture of said purchase."

In May, 1721, the people inhabiting this territory were invested with town privileges, in the exercise of which they proceeded to lay taxes for the support of a minister and building a meeting house. The town government of Voluntown was organized June 20th, 1721. Thirty-seven persons were then admitted inhabitants. The town was thus eighteen or twenty miles long and three or four miles wide. The question of location of a meeting house was a perplexing one, but it was finally decided by actual measurement, and placing it in the geographical center of the town, or about a quarter of a mile therefrom, the central point falling on an inconvenient spot. The first pastor settled by the town was Reverend Samuel Dorrance, a Scotch Presbyterian lately arrived from Ireland, who was installed December 12th, 1723. A church had been organized October 15th, 1723. This church adopted the Westminster Confession of Faith and was the first and for a long time the only Presbyterian church in Connecticut. The first members of the church were Samuel Dorrance, Robert Gordon, Thomas Cole, John Casson, John Campbell, Robert Campbell, Samuel Campbell, John Gordon, Alexander Gordon, Ebenezer Dow, John Keigwin, William Hamilton, Robert Hopkins, John Smith, Daniel Dill, Thomas Welch, Jacob Bacon, Daniel Cass, John Dorrance, George Dorrance, Samuel Church, Jr., John Dorrance, Jr., Nathaniel Deane, Vincent Patterson, Robert Miller, Patrick Parke, Samuel Church, Adam Kasson, William Kasson, David Hopkins, Charles Campbell, Nathaniel French, John Gibson, James Hopkins, John and Robert Parke, William Rogers and John Gallup.

In 1724 John Gallup had liberty to build a dam and saw mill "where he hath begun on ye stream that runs out of Monhungon-nuck Pond," and Robert Parke was allowed a similar privilege on the Moosup. The landed interests of the town were still managed by the proprietors, and their meetings were held at New London, Norwich and Stonington. This subjected the resident proprietors to much inconvenience and was afterward corrected by allowing a part at least of the business concerning lands to be done in the town. In May, 1726, Voluntown organized its first military company, with John Gallup, for captain; Robert Parke, for lieutenant; and Francis Deane, for ensign. The progress of the town had been greatly retarded, and at that date it was much

behind its contemporaries, having no schools nor even a meeting house, and but few roads laid out. A long continued and obstinate contest over the site of the meeting house disturbed the town and prevented the erection of the building. Then again, boundary contests with the adjoining towns disturbed the peace of the town. Added to these disturbing forces from without and within was the fact that its population, though quite large, was motley and disorderly, made up of substantial settlers from adjacent townships, sturdy Scotch Presbyterians and lawless Rhode Island borderers. So great was the popular agitation and discontent that at one time the town voted "that it desired that the patent granted to Voluntown might be *un-acted* and made void, and that the town be divided by an east and west line into north and south ends, and each end to make and maintain their own bridges and highways." Attempts to go on with the building of the meeting house in this disturbed condition of affairs were quite suspended. A frame had been set up on Egunk, now Sterling hill, the site chosen and contended for by a large faction, and there it stood for years without covering. In 1729, however, the agitation was so far subsided that a meeting house was begun upon the site originally designated by the town, and this was completed in the course of two or three years.

In 1740 a committee was appointed to lay out the undivided lands belonging to the proprietors. In 1739 the strip of public land which had been reserved, a mile in width, at the north end of the town, was annexed to this town by an act of the assembly. Up to this time no freemen had yet been sworn, no "country taxes" paid, and no representatives sent to the general assembly. The town now settled down to a more complete fulfillment of the privileges and responsibilities of corporate existence. But the division of land ordered in 1740 was delayed till 1747, when all previous committees being dismissed, Humphrey Avery, Charles Campbell, Robert Dixon, Samuel Gordon and John Wylie, Jr., were appointed to divide the common lots to each proprietor or his heirs, remeasure and rebound old lots, and lay out cedar swamps, which were satisfactorily accomplished. The cedar and pine swamps, said to be the best in the county, were laid out and divided. The lot on which the meeting house stood, and the burial place adjoining, were sequestered for the use of the inhabitants of the town and their successors. Several of the

original lots had not been taken up by those to whom they had been granted.

In this condition Voluntown remained for many years, a greater part of the inhabitants averse to the established church and yet compelled to pay rates for the support of its ministry. Attempts were made by residents of each end of the town to procure distinct society privileges. A petition presented to the assembly in 1762 sets forth the situation in the following language:

"That there was but one society in Voluntown, twenty miles long and four or five wide; list in 1761, £10,786; inhabitants settled at each end and dispersed in almost every part, about one hundred and eighty families, some dwelling seven, some nine and ten miles from meeting house; trouble of transporting ourselves and families very great and heavy; town conveniently situated for division; such burden of travel hardly to be found in any other town—and prayed for division."

In 1772 fifty-four persons north of Moosup river, including John, James and George Dorrance, Robert, Thomas and James Dixon, Robert Montgomery, John Coles, John Gaston, Mark and David Eames, some of them six, seven, eight and nine miles from Voluntown meeting house, and greatly impeded by bad roads and traveling, received liberty from the assembly to organize as a distinct society or join in worship with Killingly. A number of these northern residents consequently united with the church in South Killingly, and after some years organized as a distinct society.

Sterling obtained town privileges without the customary struggle. The inconvenience arising from the peculiar elongation of ancient Voluntown was abundantly manifest, and a proposition, April 25th, 1793, to divide into two towns met immediate acceptance. The resolve incorporating the new town was passed May, 1794, as follows:

"Resolved by this Assembly, that all that part of the ancient town of Voluntown, within the following bounds, beginning at the northwest corner of said ancient town of Voluntown, at the south line of Killingly; thence running southerly on the east side of Plainfield until it comes to the southeast corner of Plainfield; thence east ten degrees south to the division line between this state and the state of Rhode Island; thence by said state line to the southeast corner of Killingly; thence westerly

on the line of Killingly to the first mentioned bounds, be, and the same is hereby, incorporated into a distinct town by the name of 'Sterling,' and shall be, and remain in, and of the County of Windham."

The first town meeting was held at the house of Robert Dixon, Esq., on Sterling hill, June 9th, 1794. Benjamin Dow was elected town clerk and treasurer; Captain John Wylie and Asa Montgomery, George Matteson, Anthony Brown and Lemuel Dorrance, selectmen; Captain Thomas Gordon, constable and collector; Noah Cole, James Dorrance, Jr., Nathaniel Gallup, Dixon Hall, fence viewers; Nathaniel Gallup, grand jurymen; John Hill, Nathaniel Burlingame, Matthias Frink, tithingmen. Benjamin Dow, Lemuel Dorrance and John Wylie were appointed a committee to make division of all the corporate property that did belong to Voluntown; also, to settle the line with Voluntown gentlemen and make division of the poor. Sheep and swine were allowed liberty "to go on the common." The dwelling house of Robert Dixon was selected as the place for holding town meetings until the town saw cause to make other arrangements. Nearly a hundred inhabitants were soon admitted as freemen. The original Voluntown families—Dixon, Dorrance, Dow, Douglas, Cole, Smith, Gaston, Gordon, Gallup, French, Frink, Montgomery, Wylie—were still represented. Patten, Perkins, Vaughan, Young, Bailey, Burgess, Burlingame, Hall, Mason, and other later residents, appeared among the inhabitants. The name of the town was given by a temporary resident, Doctor John Sterling, who promised a public library in return for the honor.

Sterling entered upon its new duties with the usual spirit and energy. Its population was about nine hundred. Though much of its soil was poor, and its shape inconvenient, it had some peculiar advantages. It had fine water privileges, an excellent stone quarry, a great post road running through its center, and sterling men of good Scotch stock to administer public affairs.

The lack of a suitable place for holding town meetings was an annoyance and mortification to the leading men of the town, publishing to the world their lamentable destitution of that most essential accommodation—a *public meeting house*. Congregationalists in the south part of the town were included in the North society of Voluntown, and now engaged in building a new meeting house upon the boundary line between the town-

ships; those in the North or Bethesda society united with the South church of Killingly. The Baptists in the west part of the town were connected with the church in Plainfield; the east side Baptists joined in worship and church fellowship with their Rhode Island neighbors. As no religious society was ready to lead, its public-spirited citizens hastened to supply the deficiency by erecting a house of worship upon their own expense and responsibility. Sterling hill, as it is now called, was virtually the head and heart of the town, the center of business, the residence of the most influential citizens, and the members of the Sterling Hill Meeting House Association could not think of erecting the projected edifice in any other locality.

The subscribers to the building of the Sterling hill meeting house were as follows: Francis Smith, Levi Kinney, David Gallup, Joshua Frink, Isaac Gallup, William Gallup, George Madison, Charles Winsor, Nathan Burlingame, Philip Potter, Archibald, Lemuel, James and John Dorrance, Stephen Olney, Pierce Smith, Robert and Thomas Dixon, Joshua Webb, Benjamin Tuckerman, Reuben Thayer, David Field, Caleb Cushing, Andrew Knox, Titus Bailey, Joseph Wylie, Reuben Parke, Moses Gibson, Azael Montgomery, Dixon Hall, Archibald Gordon, Thomas Gordon, William Vaughan, Captain Gaston, Andrew and Samuel Douglas, Thomas and Samuel Cole, John Kenyon, Sr. and Jr., George Hopkins, Asa Whitford, Benjamin Bennet.

The subscribers, through a committee, obtained a deed from the heirs of Samuel Dorrance for a building lot on the east side of the Great Lane, now called the Green, "for the purpose of setting a meeting house and that only, and the convenience of a green." The meeting house was soon completed and in the autumn of 1797 the town meeting occupied it instead of the house of Robert Dixon, which had previously been used for that purpose. Other public meetings were held in it, and occasional religious services, but no regular worship was maintained for several years. In this way matters stood till about the year 1812, when the Baptists, having grown stronger, were able to maintain stated worship, and its occupancy was given up to them.

About 1818 a post office was established here, with Benjamin Tuckerman postmaster, which position he held for many years. The public library, which had been promised for the honor of naming the town but failed in its fulfilment, had been established years before, and was maintained at that time. Pierce

Smith succeeded Asa Montgomery as town clerk. John Wylie, Thomas Backus, Dyer Ames, Richard Burlingame, Dixon Hall, Jeremiah Young, John Gallup and Calvin Hibbard served as justices. Other town offices were filled by Lemuel Dorrance, Obadiah Brown, Asa Whitford, Jonah Young, Archibald Dorrance, John Hill, John and Azel Cole, Elias Frink, Amos Perkins, Joseph Gallup, John Keigwin and Artemas Baker. Half of the town meetings were held in the house of Azel Cole, and at a later date at the house of William Fairman, "on the new road near the American Cotton Factory."

From its location and surroundings the territory of Sterling is not subject to such violent disturbances by flood of swelling streams as some of its neighbor towns. Being smaller in territory, and its shape rather favorable thereto, it has been spared the burdens of road making and bridge building, which have been to some towns a serious drawback in their early experience.

After organization as a town, one of their first duties was to examine the circumstances of that stage road "that leads from Plainfield to Providence by Captain Robert Dixon's." The Turnpike Society, then recently constituted, was about to lay out a large sum of money in alterations and improvements, and the selectmen of Sterling were cited to do their part. "Taking into consideration the circumstances and liabilities of the town, and the consequences that might follow any failure or neglect," they proceeded to notify the inhabitants and make the proposed alterations, viz., from Archibald Dorrance's fence through Kenyon's field and so on to old post road; also, another piece near the burying-ground and Captain Colgrove's. A bridge was built over Moosup river near Smith's Mill—Lemuel Dorrance, John Gaston and John Douglas, committee. A turnpike gate was erected near the western line of the town. To facilitate its fishing interest, it was ordered that obstructions should be removed from the river.

School matters, like most all other public enterprises, suffered delay in the early years of this town, while it was part of Voluntown. In December, 1732, it was voted "That there shall be a surkelating school kep and a school-master hired at ye town's charge." In March, 1735, it was further ordered, "That the school be kept in four places, three months in a place, six months in ye north end and six months in ye south end, dividing ye town by a line from Alexander Gordon's to Ebenezer Dow's

house—and that the master, John Dunlap, should have thirty pounds money, and sufficient meat, drink, washing and lodging, for keeping school eleven months and eighteen days, and in ye night, when convenient.” The first school house in the town was built in 1737, “four rods from ye northwest corner of ye meeting house,” and a rate of twopence allowed for the same.

In 1762, John Gordon was chosen grand school committee, “to take into his hands the school bonds belonging to the town, and to collect the interest on bonds, and to receive the proportion of money granted by Government to the town out of the Colony’s rate, and to dispose of the same, and all other money coming from Plainfield, &c., and town’s proportion of the sale of Norfolk.” In 1766, David Eames, John Cole, Joseph Parke, Thomas Douglas, John Gaston, John Gordon and John Wylie were appointed to set out school districts throughout the town. Thirteen districts were specified, each of which thenceforward managed its own school under the supervision of a “grand-school-committee-man,” appointed by the town.

June 9th, 1794, John Douglas, Jr., was chosen grand school committee man, and a committee of one for each of the seven school districts, viz: 1. Jencks Mason; 2. Noah Cole; 3. Elisha Perkins; 4. Lemuel Dorrance; 5. Asa Whitford; 6. Nathan Dow; 7. Nathan Burlingame.

After the organization of the town of Sterling improvements in schools were gradually effected. Ten school districts, accommodated with good, convenient schools, were reported in a few years. Efforts were made to establish an academy, a company formed, and a suitable building erected, “standing near our new meeting-house, nearly in the centre of the town,” where a “man-school was maintained throughout the year, teaching reading, writing, mathematics and grammar.” With these public buildings, Robert Dixon’s well-known tavern stand, and several large, substantial houses built by the Dorrances and other thrifty residents, Sterling hill presented a fine appearance, and received especial commendation from Doctor Dwight. After noting the lean soil and imperfect civilization of Western Rhode Island, he proceeds:

“At Sterling we were pleasantly advised that we had come to Connecticut by sight of a village with decent church and school-house and better houses. A beautiful prospect from Sterling Hill.”

Reverend Mr. Dorrance remained pastor of the town ecclesiastic of Voluntown until March 5th, 1771, when, on account of his great age and infirmity, he was relieved. About 1772 an ecclesiastical society was chartered in the south part of Voluntown, and the same year, as we have already seen, a society was also chartered in the north part. The mother church, thus crippled, was unable to settle a pastor, and could with difficulty maintain regular worship. June 30th, 1779, the ancient First Church of Voluntown was reorganized as a Congregational church according to Cambridge Platform, its membership including ten males and sixteen females. The pastoral services of Reverend Mr. Gilmore were then secured, and religious worship was regularly maintained. Near the close of the century, and after the organization of Sterling, the remnant of this ancient church built a house of worship on the line between the towns, so that while the speaker stands upon the platform, one foot may be in Sterling and the other foot in Voluntown. In the last year of the century Reverend Micaiah Porter, who had been pastor of this church for nineteen years, removed and left the people without a shepherd. The weakened congregation now turned to the Baptists, who were strong in the neighborhood, and Elder Amos Crandall, an open communion Baptist, occupied the Line meeting house on alternate Sabbaths for several years, preaching to a small congregation. Still the church was not entirely disbanded. Reverend Elijah Welles, after his dismissal from Scotland, labored with it for a year, but without marked success. Worship was kept up in an intermittent fashion for several years by a few brethren. In 1817 an appeal for aid was presented to the Domestic Missionary Society for Connecticut, and this was favorably answered for a time. After nearly thirty years of uncertain existence, this church secured the services of a stated pastor, and Reverend Otis Lane was installed over it October 29th, 1828. Infirm health compelled his removal after a few years, but he was quickly succeeded by Reverend Jacob Allen, installed in October, 1837, who with a brief intermission remained in charge for nearly twenty years. A new meeting house on this site was erected in 1858. At the dedication of this the new pastor, Reverend Charles L. Ayer, was ordained. This dedication of house and ordination of pastor took place January 6th, 1859. A new parsonage was obtained, largely through his efforts. He was dismissed October 27th, 1863. Reverend Wil-

liam M. Birchard was installed May 4th, 1864, and dismissed March 25th, 1868. Reverend Joseph Ayer, father of Charles L., came here in November, 1868, and after acting some time as stated supply, was installed May 11th, 1870. He was dismissed May 19th, 1875, on his 82d birthday. Reverend Stephen B. Carter served the church as pastor from January 1st, 1876, to December 31st, 1880. John Elderkin, the present pastor, began his labors here in April, 1881. The present house of worship on Ekonk hill was dedicated January 6th, 1859. The house before it occupied the same site, built in 1795 to 1800. A burying ground still marks the spot where the first house of worship stood, about two miles northeast from the present one, on the west side of the road leading from Voluntown to Sterling hill and Oneco. In January, 1889, the church had 33 members.

The meeting house on Sterling hill, which had been erected for general religious and town meetings, by the "Meeting House Association," was used by different societies until about the year 1812. At that time the Baptists were rising in importance and increasing in numbers, and the regular stated occupancy of this meeting house was accorded to them. This new religious interest had been developed under the preaching and labors of Elder Amos Welles, previously of Woodstock. Baptists in Coventry and Sterling united in a new church organization February 13th, 1813, and its pastoral charge was assumed by Elder Welles. Public worship was held alternately at Coventry and Sterling hill. Asa Montgomery was chosen deacon in 1816, and Philip Keigwin assistant. Nearly fifty were added to the church during the ministry of Elder Welles, which continued till his death in 1819. The Plainfield Baptist church and a neighboring church in Rhode Island united with this church in forming the Sterling Hill Association, which held a general meeting once a year, exciting a large attendance and much interest.

After this, the church enjoyed for five years the ministry of Reverend George Appleton. In April, 1829, Peleg Peckham became its pastor, continuing in charge for many years. Great revivals soon following brought in more than fifty to the membership of the church. The connection with Coventry was dissolved, and the church assumed the title of the First Baptist church of Sterling. John Gallup succeeded Thomas Douglas as clerk. Ira Crandall was chosen deacon upon the death of Deacon Asa Montgomery. Philip Keigwin was also a deacon. Dur-

ing the year 1829 a branch was established in Voluntown, which became independent of this church in about ten years. The meeting house was thoroughly reconstructed in 1860-61, the former proprietors relinquishing their claims to a new "Association" and the Baptist church which had so long occupied it.

Elder Peleg M. Peckham took charge, as we have said, in 1829, and continued until September, 1850. After that no stated preaching was had for some time. Services were conducted by temporary supplies. The old house stood where the present one does. Some of the timber of the old was worked over into the new. Elder Peckham died May 29th, 1872, at his home in Sterling hill, now occupied by his grandson, Samuel P. Green. While the old church was in a dilapidated condition, Elder Bidle preached to the congregation in the school house for a year, about 1857. After that, Elder Peckham, who had given up the ministry on account of throat troubles, resumed the work for another year—1858. Elder Terry came in 1861, and served the church till 1865. Elder Thomas Dowling came in January, 1866, remaining three years. Fenner B. Dickerson ministered to this people from 1870, about four years. Elder W. D. Phillips was ordained here June 24th, 1874, but only staid about three months. Temporary supplies followed. L. Smith Brown was ordained May 16th, 1877, and remained till 1881. C. W. Potter began pastoral labors June 1st, 1882, and continued till April 1st, 1885. Elder E. S. Hill began his work here August 1st, 1885, and still remains in charge. The church at present numbers 97 members.

At Oneco Methodist services have for some time been conducted, in connection with the Methodist Episcopal church of Moosup. At the present time (1889) a house of worship is being erected here by that denomination.

At North Sterling, in the northeast part of the town, a Union Free Will Baptist church has been started. This settlement is on the Rhode Island line, and the meeting house stands beyond the line in that state. A number of the inhabitants in this town are connected with it.

The uprising of the manufacturing interest gave Sterling a fresh impetus in growth and prosperity, Asa Ames, Isaac Pitman and Samuel Dorrance and Dixon Hall, of Sterling, in 1808, as the Sterling Manufacturing Company, buying land "at a ledge of rocks, called the 'Devil's Den Chimney,' thence west

by and down a small brook to Moosup River." The Sterling Manufactory was ready for work in 1809. Sterling's manufacturing facilities were well improved during the early part of the present century. Its first factory, built by Dorrance, Hall and others, was destroyed by fire soon after its completion, but its site was soon occupied by a larger building under the more exclusive management of Samuel Ames of Providence, which was described in 1818 as "one of the largest manufacturing establishments in the State, running sixteen hundred spindles." The buildings for the accommodation of the workmen were built of stone, taken from the ledge of rocks included in the company's purchase. This "Devil's Den Chimney," as it was previously called, possessed, according to *Niles' Gazetteer*, "very singular and curious features," viz:

"It is situated within a ledge of rocks, and has a circular area of about 100 feet in diameter. The rock is cleft in two places, forming at each a chasm or fissure of about 50 feet deep, through one of which there runs a small stream of water; the other communicates with a room of about twelve feet square, at the interior part of which there is a fireplace and a *chimney* extending through the rock above, forming an aperture of about three feet square. In another part of the rock there is a natural staircase winding around it from the bottom to the top. In the cold season of the year a large mass of ice is formed in the room above described by the dashing of water through the chimney, which continues there through nearly the whole of the warm months, the sun being almost excluded from this subterraneous recess."

The American Factory upon the Quanduck, and a small cotton factory upon the Moosup were also carried on. Three grain mills, one carding machine, one fulling mill and clothiery works, two tanneries, four mercantile stores and two taverns were reported in 1818.

For many years the cotton factories continued in operation, furnishing employment to male and female operatives, and a ready market for farmers. The Sterling Company manifested much enterprise, and was one of the first in the country to whiten their cloth by the use of chlorine instead of sun bath. Mr. William Pike effected this invention, and also experimented in wood distillation, extracting for the use of the dyer the first pyroligneous acid made in the country. His success encouraged

him to further enterprise. Brandy and gin distilleries had fallen into disrepute, but the transformation of wood into various chemical agencies met with nothing but favor. Three of these "sap works" were in time established—two in Sterling, one in Voluntown—requiring some five or six thousand cords of wood annually, and at least a score of men to prepare the wood and aid in the working. Pyroligneous and citric acids, sugar of lead, tincture of iron, naphtha and fine charcoal were among the products of distillation. Mr. Pike had his residence on Sterling hill, in one of the fine old Dorrance houses, and was much respected as one of the leading men of the town. He was the first to introduce one horse wagons into use, paying for them in cotton yarn. Charcoal making was carried on quite extensively in Sterling.

Jeremiah W. Boswell was born in Foster, R. I., and came to Sterling, Conn., in 1876. He learned the trade of stone cutter and commenced quarrying granite about one-fourth of a mile east of Sterling Dye Works in 1887. He employs about twenty-five men. The stone is of superior quality for building purposes, and finds a ready market in Providence, Norwich and other places.

The village of Oneco, in the central part of the town, was founded by Henry Sabin, of Plainfield, who built a small cotton factory here about the year 1830. Successive owners gave it their names till it was finally re-christened by the Norwich proprietors, who now utilize its granite, working its fine quarries to good advantage. Indications of yet more valuable ore have been found in the vicinity. Among these are specimens of plumbago and dendrite, and such large and glittering quartz crystals, that their chief depository is known as "the Diamond Ledge." The famous "Devil's Den Chimney" was blown up to make way for the railroad when that was building.

About 1860 Smith & Williams commenced quarrying granite at what is now known as Garvey Brothers' quarry. They were succeeded by A. & W. Sprague, and in 1884 by Garvey Brothers, of Providence, who employ at the quarry and in connection with it about 120 men. The granite quarried here is used for paving, building and monumental purposes in Providence, New York, Chicago and many other places, and is also sent to England. Their facilities for handling stone are not surpassed, a railroad running direct to the ledge. Mr. John Garvey, who, since the death

of his brother Michael, in 1887, has been sole manager, came to this country in 1869 with about five dollars in his pocket. He learned the trade of stone cutter, became a contractor and builder, and, by his industry, has built up a large and increasing business.

Oscar F. Gibson, son of Allen Gibson, was born in Sterling in 1835. In 1886 he commenced quarrying granite about one mile west of Oneco village. He employs about 20 men. The stone are chiefly used for building, and find a ready market. Mr. Gibson represented Sterling in the legislature of 1880. He married Ellen, daughter of Arnold Dixon, and has two sons, Allen M. and Merrill A.

The cotton manufacturing interests of the town have declined. Factories burned down have not been replaced. Its natural resources now furnish its chief reliance. The "sap works" of Mr. James Pike continue to resolve the forests into their component elements, consuming annually some two or three thousand cords of hard wood, employing a number of workmen, and extracting and combining a variety of useful products. A specialty of this unique establishment is the dissolution of refuse tin and iron, battered tin pans, rusty stove pipes and the like, by which these heretofore indestructible nuisances are made subservient to the will and use of man. Stimulated by the enterprises, Oneco bids fair to become a place of business importance, has a new public hall and public-spirited residents.

A Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry was recently organized here by Mr. Bowen, the state lecturer of that order. It had thirty-six charter members. The location of the Grange is at the "Line meeting house," where it was organized, and only a part of its membership belong to this county. Its first officers were as follows: John E. Tanner, M.; E. Byron Gallup, O.; A. A. Stanton, L.; G. A. Youngs, S.; Silas Barber, A. S.; Mrs. Nathaniel Gallup, L. A. S.; Reverend John Elderkin, C.; Benjamin G. Stanton, secretary; J. Cyrus Tanner, treasurer; Miss Minnie Elderkin, P.; Addie E. Gallup, F.; Mrs. J. E. Fenner, C.; Ezra A. Gallup, G. K.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

AMBROSE H. BATES.—William Bates, who resided in Coventry, Rhode Island, married Mary Hopkins. To this union were born twelve children, of whom Ambrose H. is the subject of this



A. W. Bates

sketch. His birth occurred February 21st, 1832, in Coventry, where he resided until his eighteenth year. He enjoyed but limited opportunities for acquiring an education, but in later years by careful and intelligent reading of the best literature, in a measure made amends for the want of early advantages, and thus possessed a well-stored and disciplined mind.

At the age of eighteen he entered the whaling service and for twenty years followed a seafaring life, cruising in various parts of the world on extended voyages. On abandoning his vocation he settled in Oneco, in the town of Sterling, and began a mercantile career as the proprietor of a country store. Mr. Bates continued thus employed for five years, and after an interval of of leisure again engaged in business as an undertaker, establishing a large and increasing patronage, which was maintained until his death on the 21st of February, 1885, in his fifty-third year. He enjoyed an extended acquaintance among public men throughout the state, was a man of progressive ideas, and active in the promotion of various useful enterprises. A democrat in his political views, he filled a number of local offices and in 1877 represented his town in the Connecticut legislature. Mr. Bates was also identified with the Masonic fraternity, in which he occupied a leading position.

He was, August 12th, 1861, married to Diana E., daughter of Orren Kenyon, of Coventry, Rhode Island. He was a man of strong personality, an indomitable will and rare natural gifts, and had he been possessed of the advantages of early education would have risen to a high position in the state. Mr. Bates during his life traveled over the greater part of the world. He spent several seasons in the Arctic regions, many times "rounded Cape Horn," and at various times lived in the Hawaian Islands. Entering the whaling service, as he did, in 1850, at the time when it was most lucrative, as well as the most dangerous, his life was an extended series of adventure and peril. From the very bottom of the ladder he rose in a few years to the highest position in the service, that of owner and master of a vessel—a thing which rarely occurred.

JAMES PIKE.—John Pike, the common ancestor of the branch of the Pike family residing in Connecticut, settled in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1664. He was the progenitor of Jonas Pike, of Sturbridge, Massachusetts, who married a descendant of Perigrine White, the first white child born in New England. Their

four sons were: David, Ephraim, Jonas and Jesse. There was also one daughter, Amy. David married Elizabeth Pitman, of Newport, Rhode Island. Their children were two sons, William and James Pitman; and two daughters, Lucy, wife of David Bayless, and Nancy, who married Abijah Prouty. William Pike left Sturbridge in 1810 and settled in Sterling. He learned from his father, who was by trade a hatter, the art of coloring. In the year 1811 he began the dyeing of cotton yarns and later assumed the charge of the dye house of the Sterling Manufacturing Company. Removing to Pawtucket he introduced the bleaching of cottons by chlorine, and thus superseded the primitive method of bleaching in the sun. In 1814 he was employed by the Sterling Manufacturing Company, and a year later started the manufacture of pyroligneous acid for the use of the dyers' art. About this date he established the firm of William Pike & Co., for the manufacture of the above acid, in Sterling. He married Lydia Campbell, to whom were born five children, the only survivors being James, the subject of this biography, and William.

James Pike was born December 31st, 1826, in Sterling, the scene of his lifetime business experiences. After a season at the public schools he became a pupil of the Plainfield Academy and the Scituate Seminary. Soon after he found employment in the mills of the Sterling Manufacturing Company, and subsequently aided his father in the manufacture of chemicals. Meanwhile, by a series of experiments, he discovered a process of coloring black, which for permanency and general excellence was superior to any dye in use. He at once organized the Sterling Dyeing and Finishing Company, in which he holds the controlling interest and for which he is the agent. So favorably received was this new process that the capacity of the works was soon inadequate to the demand, and extensive additions have since been made, most of the buildings being substantial stone structures. To this business his time and attention are exclusively given.

Mr. Pike was married on the 10th of May, 1853, to Mary E., daughter of Abram Shepard, of Brooklyn, Connecticut. Their children were: J. Edward, who is engaged with his father in business; Lydia Campbell, wife of Claramon Hunt; Mary E.; Harriet E., wife of George Call; and one who is deceased. Mr. Pike is a republican in politics. He served as



W. H. Proctor & Co.

James Pike



Amory A. Stanton

railroad commissioner from 1868 to 1871, has held various town offices and while a member of the state legislature served on the committee on banks. He is a member of Moriah Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Danielsonville, and a supporter of the Congregational church.

AVERY A. STANTON.—The subject of this sketch was born in Preston, Conn., in 1837, is a son of Lodowick Stanton, and the great-great-grandson of General Thomas Stanton, who came from England and settled in Stonington, Conn. His great-grandfather, John Stanton (known as Warrior Stanton), served in the French and Indian war and also fought in the revolutionary war, coming from battle with eighteen bullet holes shot through his coat. The mother of Avery A. Stanton was a daughter of Deacon John Stanton, who was a son of Joshua Stanton, whose father Washington also came from England. His brothers are Captain John L. (who fell at the siege of Port Hudson), Alburtus S. and Reverend William E.

In 1848, Mr. Stanton and his mother removed to Voluntown, Conn., his father having died one year previous. He received his education at the schools of Voluntown, East Greenwich, R. I., and at the Connecticut Literary Institution, of Suffield, Conn. He taught school about eight years in Eastern Connecticut and Rhode Island, and in 1862 settled in the town of Sterling, Conn., where he has since resided, engaged in farming and the lumber business. In 1864 he was elected one of the school visitors of Sterling, which position he held for twenty-four years. In 1873 he was elected first selectman, and has held other important town offices, being town agent and auditor for a number of years. In 1874 he represented the town of Sterling in the state legislature. In 1884 he was appointed by the governor of the state county commissioner to fill an unexpired term, and was chosen by the legislature of 1884 to the same office for a term of three years. He still holds this position, having been reappointed for a second term of four years.

Mr. Stanton is married to Laura, daughter of Benjamin Gallup, of Voluntown, and has five sons—Walter A., John B., Benjamin G., William E. and Albert H.—and three daughters—Nettie E., Ella C. and Lottie E. Mr. Stanton belongs to a family that is able to trace 6,000 relatives.

CHAPTER XXVII.

THE TOWN OF THOMPSON.

Location, Description, Geology.—Pre-historic Occupants.—The Indians of this Region.—Early White Settlers.—Quinnatisset Hill.—Increase of Population.—Land Controversies.—Pattaquatic.—Highways in the Wilderness.—Bridge Building.—Samuel Morris.—Early Attempt to secure Town Privileges.—Second or North Society of Killingly.—Thompson Parish.—Land west of the Quinebaug annexed.—Building the Meeting House.—Religious Worship Established.—Military Company.—Non-resident Land-owners.—Various Improvements.—Schools.—Town Affairs.—The French War.—The Old Red Tavern.—Business and Finance.—The Revolutionary Period.—Quadic Shipyard.—Petitions for Town Privileges.

THOMPSON occupies the northeast corner of the state of Connecticut, bordering north on Massachusetts and east on Rhode Island. Its territory is ample, about eight miles by six, comprising 48.49 square miles. • The Quinebaug and French rivers, flowing through the west of the town, unite below Mechanicsville. The Five-mile or Assawaga river is near the eastern border. Capacious reservoirs greatly augment the volume of these streams and multiply the manufacturing facilities of the town. The surface of the soil is much broken and diversified, particularly between the rivers, and so encumbered by stones as to make its cultivation very laborious. Granite ledges underlie the hills, and myriads of detached stones overlie field and pasture. Sixty years ago Niles' "Connecticut Gazetteer" reported "more miles of wall fence in Thompson than in any town of the State," and it is doubtful if this record has been broken. Elaborate and unique stone walls in all parts of the town testify to the ingenuity and industry of the farmer. Many well-cultivated farms, neat and convenient farm houses, and a general aspect of thriftiness indicate a further triumph over natural disadvantages. In spite of hard and stony soil, farming in Thompson has not been unremunerative, and the majority of her farmers are well-to-do and comfortable. The eastern part of the town is less favored—a barren ridge of rocky woodland,

stretching into Rhode Island and southward to the Sound. With increasing emigration and modern methods of farming, less pains are taken to cultivate poor soil, and many fields and pastures are left to grow up into forest, and though much wood is cut off and sent to market, much more is growing than there was fifty years ago.

The territory now included in Thompson was, prior to white settlement, a part of the Nipmuck country, though also claimed by the Narragansetts. The Great Pond, Chaubunakongkomuk, just beyond its present northern boundary, was the "bound mark" between the Nipmucks and Narragansetts. An Indian captain named Allum or Hyems gave his name to the little Allum pond, near its northeast corner. In the days of John Eliot's missionary labors, 1670-1674, the Nipmucks were in ascendancy, occupying a fort on the hill east of what is now Thompson hill. This latter hill and the surrounding country was known as Quinnatisset, and the little brook circuiting from "the meadow" into the French river was called Quinnatisset brook. Through the faithful labors of Eliot's Indian missionaries the Quinnatisset residents were persuaded to gather into a village on the hill, where a large wigwam was constructed, visible as late as 1730. Twenty families, containing about a hundred souls, were reported to Eliot, partly civilized and inclined to religious worship, to whom was sent in 1674 "a sober and pious young man of Natick, called Daniel, to be their minister, whom they accepted in the Lord." The breaking out of King Philip's war quickly obliterated the results of missionary labor. The Quinnatisset Nipmucks joined the Narragansetts and were mostly destroyed. The fort in Quinnatisset, known as "Fort No. 1 in the Nipmuck Country," was assaulted and demolished, but the aboriginal cellar on Fort hill, described by surveyors in 1684 as "the ruins of an old Indian fort," is visible until this day, one of the oldest and best authenticated Indian relics in Windham county. Many Indian utensils and arrows, found in this vicinity and the adjacent Pattaquatic (now Quadic), show that this Assawaga valley was once a favorite resort. The remains of corn rows were distinctly seen upon Fort hill within the memory of older inhabitants.

In connection with the general settlement of Indian affairs following King Philip's defeat, five thousand acres of land at Quinnatisset were included in the reservation allowed to the

Indians. This land was immediately made over to the Massachusetts agents, Messrs Stoughton and Dudley, and soon after sold to non-resident English gentlemen. June 18th, 1683, two thousand acres of "forest land in the Nipmuck Country," including the present Thompson hill and surrounding land, was conveyed to Thomas Freak, Hamington, Wells county, England, and a two thousand acre tract, east of the above, was soon after sold to Sir Robert Thompson, North Newington, Middlesex, England—the initial bound between the tracts running through the cellar of the old fort. Another large slice of the Indian reservation, east of the Quinebaug or Myanexet, now occupied by New Boston village, was secured by Joseph Dudley, and smaller farms by other non-residents. These farms were all laid out in 1684, the earliest of any in Windham county, but owing to the uncertain tenure of the land, they were not improved for many years. The survey under which Massachusetts claimed Quinnatisset and the adjacent Senexet (now Woodstock) was clearly erroneous. Woodward and Saffery's line, dividing Massachusetts and Connecticut colonies, deflected southward six or eight miles, striking the Connecticut river at Windsor. The protracted boundary quarrel greatly discouraged settlement, and it was not till after 1713, when Massachusetts consented to rectify the line provided she could keep all the towns she had settled, that much progress was made. The township of Killingly had meanwhile been settled and organized, and as it was certain that Connecticut's claim would ultimately prevail, a few settlers had straggled in north of that town.

The first known and datable settler within the limits of the present Thompson was Richard Dresser, of Rowley, Mass., who in 1707 purchased "the place called Nashaway," a beautiful farm west of the Quinebaug, at its junction with the French river, a little south of the present Mechanicsville. His son Jacob, born in 1710, was the first white boy born upon Thompson territory. Sampson Howe followed the next year, settling between the rivers. Farther north, between the rivers, land was taken up by Isaac Jewett and John Younglove, whose premises were so infested with bears, wolves and Indians, that a log fort or garrison was needed for protection. The first settler in the vicinity of Quinnatisset hill was Samuel Converse, of Woburn, who, with wife and four sons, in 1710 took possession of what was known as the Quinnatisset farm, about a mile south of the hill (now

occupied by Mr. Stephen Ballard). Mr. Converse was a man of middle age and excellent position and character, and was long regarded as the father of the growing settlement. His residence was the first south of the great wilderness between the colonies, traversed yet only by blazed paths, and served as a welcome resting place to many a wearied traveler. On the doubtful border-land adjacent Killingly the first settler was Richard Evans, as early as in 1693. His establishment, with "tenement of houses, barn, orchard, tanning pits and fulling mill," was purchased by Simon Bryant, of Braintree, in 1713, the happy father of seven blooming and capable daughters, the future mothers of many a Thompson family. The oldest daughter, Hannah, married her neighbor, William Larned, another early settler in this vicinity. Thomas Whitmore, James Wilson, Joseph Cady, Samuel Lee, Jonathan Hughes, were among the early residents of this old "South Neighborhood" very prominent in Thompson affairs, although their various farms and homesteads are now within the limits of Putnam.

The first regular settler in the northwest of Thompson was a man of much character and influence, Samuel Morris, son of Edward Morris, of Woodstock, who purchased fifteen hundred acres of the Dudley land on the Quinebaug in 1714. The "old Connecticut Path," long the chief thoroughfare of travel between Boston and southern colonies, ran past his dwelling house and through a mile of his estate. One of his first achievements was to bridge the turbulent and troublesome Quinebaug, then greatly addicted to freshets. He also built two smaller bridges over tributaries, expended time and labor in clearing out the channel of the river, and greatly improved the road and kept it in order. His energy and prowess gave him great influence over his Indian neighbors of Woodstock and the reservation northward, who honored him with the title of governor. Governor Morris was emphatically the great man of this section, and it was said that a blast from his conch-shell would bring a hundred Indians to his aid. Wild land south of the Morris farm, west of the Quinebaug, was owned and settled by Woodstock residents. The first to take possession were John Dwight, John Corbin and Penuel Child. Freak's farm, on Quinnatisset hill, passed on to Josiah Wolcott, of Salem, and his wife, Mary, niece of the original proprietor. In 1716 Wolcott, for £200, conveyed four hundred acres on the summit of this hill to Captain John

Sabin, first settler of Pomfret, agreeing "to defend said Sabin in quiet and peaceable possession of the premises, so that he be not forcibly ejected." With this guaranty, Captain Sabin's son Hezekiah took possession of the present Thompson hill and soon put up a large frame house, known even within the present century as "the old Red Tavern." This tavern soon became a place of familiar resort, especially when a country road was laid over the hill, accommodating Plainfield and Killingly with more direct communication with Boston. Along the French or Little Quinebaug settlers had already gathered, viz., David Shapley, Samuel Davis, James Hosmer, Nathaniel Crosby, Henry Ellithorpe.

Land north of Quinnatisset hill was bought up by Governor Saltonstall and Sampson Howe and sold out to settlers. Among these permanent residents were Comfort Starr, of Dedham; Benjamin Bixby, of Topsfield, and his nephew Jacob; Israel Joslyn, of Salem; Nathaniel Wight, Abraham Burrill, John Wiley, Nathaniel Brown, Joseph Ellis, James Coats, Samuel Narramore. Ivory Upham, of Malden, and Nathaniel Jacobs, of Bristol, R. I., were somewhat later in settlement. The first resident proprietor of land eastward in the vicinity of Quadic, was Henry Green, of Malden, with eight sons, in 1719. John Hascall, of Middleborough, Edward Munyan and William Moffatt, of Salem, also settled on the eastern line. Nathaniel Merrill purchased a farm near Quadic pond, now owned by Mr. Horace Bixby. His nearest neighbor on the west was Jonathan Clough, of Salisbury, whose old house is still standing, owned by Mr. Asa Ross.

The rapid increase of population in all parts of this tract was the more remarkable, considering its chaotic condition. The old boundary difficulty was slow in healing. Killingly regarded with great contempt the claims of its non-resident proprietors, and would gladly have ousted them from all possession, insisting that her town patent extended to the new boundary line of 1713, and rightfully covered the whole ground. In 1721 the selectmen of Killingly, without permission from government, proceeded to lay out portions of this ungranted land and make it over to previous residents and new comers, and exercised in many ways unlawful authority over these settlers. The original white proprietors of Quinnatisset and their representatives, Paul and William Dudley, Samuel Morris, the agent of Sir Joseph Thompson, and Josiah Wolcott, very strenuously opposed these

efforts of Killingly, and insisted that she had no right beyond the Woodward and Saffery line, on which she was laid out, and that the land north of this line should be erected into a distinct and independent township. As early as 1714 these gentlemen petitioned the general assembly for a town, and secured a vote in their favor from the upper house, but were unable to carry the lower. The government was poor and embarrassed; Killingly was most persistent in her claim and conduct, and immediate decision was inexpedient. Delay only increased the difficulty of decision; both parties were too powerful to be offended, and so the matter drifted for many years. Killingly received permission to levy rates on the inhabitants for the support of her minister, but her petition to annex the land was flatly rejected, and she was positively forbidden to exercise any jurisdiction west of the Quinebaug. This strip of land bordering on Woodstock was long left "a peculiar"—unstated to any town, subject only to New London county and the general government. Possibly this very lack of organization made settlement therein more desirable and attainable, especially as contrasted with neighboring towns, where land was held by strong corporations and new comers subjected to very severe scrutiny, while Killingly opened heart and lands to all immigrants, and especially those who were willing to run the risk of ejection. Many sterling citizens received their original homesteads under the irregular if not unlawful apportionment of 1721. In several cases settlers were obliged to give up their allotments, the government of Connecticut always confirming the claims of non-resident land owners when a suit was brought to issue. It is very creditable to these early residents, that in spite of land disputes and the absence of local town officers, there is so little trace of disturbance. Practically they were left to shift for themselves; they had no schools, no suitable roads, no selectmen or constables, and only the privilege of attending church in Killingly's far-off meeting house.

Scattered over a wide section, still mostly a savage wilderness, they broke up land and built their log houses, knowing so little of each other that three families settling on the eastern frontier in 1721 supposed themselves the only inhabitants north of Killingly. The ten-years old boy of one of these families, Joseph Munyan, delighted in old age to tell the story of their emigration and early experiences. Over the long, rough road from

Salem to the purchased homestead, they brought their scanty household goods and stock—six cows, ten sheep, four hogs—sleeping by night on their cart, and foraging as best they could. Oxen were hired to draw the cart from one settlement to another. Reaching their new home after a long and wearisome journey, they found but rocks and wilderness. The great oak under which they encamped was covered with wild turkeys in the morning. Game of all kinds was abundant; brooks swarmed with fish; wolves chased and terrified the cattle. Pine knots were burned through the night to keep off wild beasts and Indians. During the first summer they built a log house and broke up and planted some land, from which in the autumn the daughters harvested three aprons full of corn. During the hard summers of 1725 and 1726, when crops were everywhere cut off by drought and frost, the Munyans were obliged to travel to old Hadley, in Massachusetts, to buy corn, a journey almost equal to that of Joseph's brethren into Egypt.

Henry Green and his numerous sons were very helpful in forwarding settlement at Pattaquatic. A saw mill was soon set up and in full motion, the dam built by the beavers furnishing sufficient water power. One of the most northerly settlers on the road to Boston was Benjamin Bixby, a little west of the present Brandy hill, whose house was also used as a tavern. Here occurred the only reported instance of Indian disturbance—the shooting of Mrs. Bixby in the thigh by a drunken Mohegan for refusing to give him more liquor, for which injury £17 was forwarded to Mr. Bixby by the Indians at New London. "The awful providence of heaven," in further visiting the unfortunate Mrs. Bixby by lightning stroke in a terrific thunder shower, called out universal sympathy and compassion, even Governor Saltonstall expressing his "tender concern" at this series of misfortunes.

Perhaps the most serious inconvenience resulting from the unorganized condition of the future Thompson was inability to provide suitable roads. To make a good road in its hard and rock-bound soil was a very difficult enterprise, requiring the authority of selectmen or suitable officers. Lacking such authority, the settlers simply "trod out" their own ways from house to house, and to such points as enabled them to communicate with the outer world. For public roads there was the "old Connecticut Path," obliquely crossing from Massachusetts line into Wood-

stock, below the site of the present New Boston. There was also the road from Plainfield, a wretched "old gangway," as it was sometimes called, very nearly corresponding with the present north and south road through the town. The entire lack of all other accommodations may be gathered from the universal cry that arose from all sections simultaneously, for "roads to Thompson meeting house" when that edifice was opened for public worship. They seemed demanded not merely as a matter of convenience, but out of respect to the day and occasion. Home-made, trodden-out paths might answer for going to mill and visiting neighbors, but a special "go-to-meeting" road seemed as indispensable as Sunday clothes. The only apparent use for a road was "to travel to Thompson meeting house" upon; at least no other object was hinted at in the numerous petitions with which Killingly was deluged. The selectmen of this town, only too happy to exercise authority over this coveted section, appointed a committee in 1730 to go to the parish of Thompson and to take a view and see what ways they need to go to their meeting house, and lay out what they think best, modifying this order by the subsequent vote—"That for the future every person that shall move to this town to have any way altered or removed, it shall be done at the petitioner's cost and charge." So arduous was the task laid upon the committee, so large the number of roads demanded, and so difficult of manufacture, that it seemed quite unable to grapple with it, and in the great majority of cases simply confirmed the roads "as trod out," or made slight alterations and improvements. Among the roads thus altered was the one "beginning west side of Quinebaug River, near Mrs. Dresser's, and on between Captain Howe's house and barn to the French River . . . and so as the road is now trod to ye meeting house"—varying little from the present road to West Thompson.

The road from "Sabin's Bridge" (now Putnam Centre) was a very remarkable achievement, accommodating Joseph Cady, Deacon Eaton and other widely separated prominent citizens, and also contriving to intersect "the path by which Simon Bryant already traveleth from his own dwelling house to Thompson meeting house." Still more remarkable was a road laid out by a special committee "chosen to view ye circumstances in ye quarter of ye Greens," which, starting from Thomas Whitmore's corner (now Whittlesy's, Putnam), mean-

dered leisurely about Pattaquatic, from Bloss's pasture alongside of a brook to an oak near Phinehas Green's house, thence to another oak in Henry Green's pasture, crossing and recrossing the stream at lower and upper fordways, and after accommodating all the families of that section, wound through Merrill's improved land "into the old road over Quinnatisset Brook, and so as the road goes till it comes into the country road, southwest corner of Hezekiah Sabin's little orchard, foreshore of the meeting house." This very ancient road, "old" in 1735, is still extant and in good condition, forming the southern side of that nondescript geometrical conformation east of the village of Thompson called by courtesy "The Square." A venerable Sea-konk sweeting and one or two Roxbury russets are the sole survivors of this primitive orchard. One of the ways left "as trod," to evolve itself in time into a passable cart road, was one demanded by Hascall, near the Massachusetts line, who had to let down twelve pairs of bars on his way to meeting. The condition of the road over which Samuel Morris was required to travel to that distant shrine will be best described by himself in another place. Among old roads still in use is what is called the "Mountain Road" to Putnam, which was laid out in 1763. To this very irregular and inconvenient style of road-making the present residents of Thompson are indebted for the number and variety of rural, romantic, roundabout drives for which it is distinguished, dating back to those old days when every household in town had a special way of its own.

The problem of bridge-making weighed very heavily upon the early settlers of Windham county. To construct a bridge that could withstand the swollen current of the raging Quinebaug, whose ravages it was declared "could not be paralleled in the colony," seemed beyond human attainment. Again and again bridges were constructed at great cost and labor, only to be swept away in a few months. Yet, in the face of all this discouragement, Mr. Samuel Morris contrived to build a bridge over the Quinebaug at his settlement, in 1717, which did good service for many years. No wonder that his Indian followers looked upon him as almost a supernatural power, and that the general assembly should exempt him from "paying any rates whatever" for the term of ten years. In 1722 a cart bridge was built over the Quinebaug by Sampson Howe and John Dwight, upon the road over which the latter afterward traveled to meet-

ing—a good bridge and great convenience to the public; but as a bridge had just been built below the High falls by Captain Sabin, with assistance from government, these builders were obliged to pay their own expenses. In process of time all the more traveled roads were supplied with bridges. A bridge was built over the French river by Henry Ellithorpe, on the present site of Grosvenor Dale, which bore his name for many years.

In 1727 the non-resident land owners in the colony land north of Killingly, together with Samuel Morris, made another earnest attempt to procure town privileges. Desiring “to have each one enjoy his purchase because it is inhabitants that do make a town, and a great part of the remaining land is rough and broken and but little more fit to be inhabited,” they felt that all interests demanded “that a new town may be made there, so that we may know what town we are in.” But the forcible pleas and representations of Killingly’s foremost citizens—Joseph Leavens and Joseph Cady—decided the case against them, and it was decreed that a religious society or precinct should be erected instead of the desired township. By act of assembly, May, 1728, a society was formally set off and incorporated, known at first as the Second or North society of Killingly, and soon after as Thompson parish. Its southern bound was a line near the present residence of Mr. William Converse, of Putnam, extending west to the Quinebaug and east to Rhode Island. Organization was effected July 9th, 1728. By warrant from Justice Joseph Leavens, the inhabitants of the new precinct met on Quinnatisset hill, at the dwelling house of Hezekiah Sabin. Jonathan Hough was chosen moderator. “They then voted and chose Sampson Howe clerk for said society; the same, with Hezekiah Sabin and Benjamin Bixby, were chosen committee of the society.” As the first object of their organization, they then voted, “To hire a minister to preach the gospel in said society, and to begin with us to preach the first Lord’s day in August next ensuing; also, that Mr. Wales should be invited to preach the gospel to us and to continue with us for the space of six months.” The place for public worship was not specified, but it was probably in Sabin’s tavern house, as the most accessible from all parts of the society.

At the second society meeting it was proposed “To vote in the peculiars,” meaning the residents west of the Quinebaug. A somewhat singular vote was passed August 13th, viz.: “Whether

every man that hath a house and land of his own belonging to this society, shall have liberty to vote and act with us in all affairs relating to the settling the worship of God in said society," and it passed in the negative. September 9th it was put to a vote, whether the society would ever build a meeting house, and it passed in the affirmative. Feeling their way carefully, item by item, it was agreed that the meeting house should be fifty feet long, forty feet wide and twenty-four feet stud, and that John Comings should be improved to be master workman in hewing and framing—having five shillings a day and his victuals. September 20th, the very important question, where to set the meeting house, was in order, and it was voted—"That it be set south side and near to the road that leads from John Cooper's to Benjamin Bixby's, right before the door of the house of Hezekiah Sabin, near where was an old wigwam"—a site near the center of the present common. An acre of land for a meeting house was given to the society by Mr. Sabin. "The affare of building our meeting house" was entrusted to Nathaniel Merrill, John Wiley, Uriah and Jaazaniah Hosmer, Hezekiah Sabin and Benjamin Bixby as a committee. It was also voted, "To give every man that works about the meeting house three shillings per day, he finding himself; that every man allowed to hew timber shall have three and sixpence; that the oxen that shall go to work about the meeting house shall be allowed eighteen pence per day; a horse that draweth, one shilling; for a cart, one shilling."

Further legislation in October gave the new society additional territory and powers. The "Peculiar," west of the Quinebaug, was formally annexed to the North society of Killingly. A yearly tax of ten shillings upon every hundred acres of land within its bounds was granted for four years, and the society committee empowered to use the money thus raised in building a meeting house and settling an orthodox minister. For preventing law suits and accommodating differences, the tract of land between the old and new north boundary lines, excepting what had been confirmed to original grantees, and needful equivalents, was now made over to Killingly.

Thus organized and equipped, the North society began its career, and joyfully entered upon the task of collecting and preparing timber for the much-desired meeting house. Deprived for so many years of ordinary religious and civil privileges, this happy set-

tlement and hopeful prospect was a matter of great rejoicing. In no other precinct or town within the county was this meeting house work carried on with such alacrity and harmony. "The people's hearts were stirred up and they willingly offered themselves." The little word "our" prefixed to all meeting house votes pleasantly indicates a personal sense of proprietorship. All over the large parish men and teams were busily at work. Giant oaks were levelled, hewn and hauled over the rough ways to the appointed site. So earnest and vigorous were the workers, that by November 15th, the society was called "to consider how and in what method we shall proceed in order for making preparation for the raising our meeting house." The method adopted was, "That every man in said society shall have liberty to bring in provisions and drink what may be thought his proportion." John Dwight, Benjamin Bixby, Hezekiah Sabin, Edward Converse, Jonathan Clough and Sampson Howe were appointed a committee to take care to provide for the raising. Under such auspices the work was triumphantly accomplished—the first great gathering assembled on Thompson hill.

The "liberty to bring in provisions and drink" had been so bountifully improved, that John Wiley and John Dwight were ordered to take particular account of what each man brought and give him credit for it, "the overplush to pay the 'rerages of hiring ministers." The rates allowed for provision were—pork, six pence a pound; beef, four pence; mutton, four pence; suet, eight pence; sugar, twelve pence; butter, one shilling; turnips, one and six pence per bushel; wheat, eight shillings; rye, six shillings; Indian corn, four shillings; cabbages, three pence per head. No stated minister was yet procured, but services were kept up through the winter at Sabin's tavern. January 20th, 1729, Ensign Green, Jonathan Eaton, Joseph Cady, John Dwight and Edward Converse were deputized "to agree with workmen to finish all the outside work belonging to our meeting house," and further instructed "to make Woodstock meeting house their pattern to go by, excepting what said committee shall judge superfluous in said house." Also voted, "That for the future every man that shall cart one thousand of boards from Green's mill to the meeting house shall have ten shillings money for the same." During the following summer the work went on so rapidly that on August 1st a society meeting was held in the new building. Such honest work had been expended upon its

massive frame, that after one hundred and sixty years of faithful service, it stands to-day erect and in good condition, the residence of Thompson's faithful clerk and treasurer. A minister was soon provided for the meeting house. October 16th, it was voted to extend a call to Marston Cabot, of Salem. This call was accepted after due consideration, provided the society fulfilled three articles:—

1. Their offer of £200 settlement.
2. That they always keep up the credit of the proposed salary, viz., £80 a year, adding £5 yearly till it reached £100.
3. That they bring him a sufficiency of cord-wood for his own use in the season of it.

Preparations were at once made for church organization and ordination. Platform, pulpit and deacon's seats were provided, neighboring ministers visited and consulted. January 28th, 1730 (O. S.), was kept as a day of fasting and prayer. Services were held morning and afternoon, conducted by Reverend John Fisk of Killingly, Reverend Ebenezer Williams of Pomfret, Reverend Amos Throop, Woodstock, and before the large assembly was dismissed, "We were incorporated and formed into a distinct church by having the church covenant read and owning our consent to it." The constituent members of the church in Thompson parish, known as the Second church of Killingly, were: Marston Cabot, pastor elect, Samuel Converse, James Wilson, John Wiley, Benjamin Bixby, Israel Joslin, Sampson Howe, John Russel, Jonathan Clough, Nathaniel Merrill, Hezekiah Sabin, Edward Converse, Nathaniel Johnson, Ivory Upham, Robert Plank, John Bowers, Ephraim Guile, Henry Green, Benjamin Pudney, Comfort Starr, John Barrett, Richard Bloss, Jonathan Eaton, David Shapley, Thomas Whittemore, Jr., Thomas Converse, Eleazer Green, Samuel Narramore. February 25th the same honored ministers, together with Reverend Messrs. Coit of Plainfield, and Hale of Ashford, assisted in the ordination of Mr. Cabot. Jonathan Eaton and Benjamin Bixby were soon after elected deacons.

"Divine worship" and ordinances being then happily established, various secular affairs claimed the attention of the society. In May, 1730, a military company was organized, with Sampson Howe for captain, Hezekiah Sabin, lieutenant, and John Dwight, ensign. The utter lack of schooling for children was a grievance much in need of abatement. January 15th, 1731, this

matter was considered, when it was agreed, "That there should be four schools kept in this parish, and the school master to be removed into four quarters of this parish." Four honored citizens, one from each quarter, viz., Jonathan Clough, Joseph Cady, Penuel Child and John Wiley, were straightway empowered "to divide this parish into four parts in order for the benefit and advantig of having their children educated each quarter in reading and wrighting and sifering." Spelling in those days was a quite superfluous accomplishment. The ordained "quarters" differed greatly in size according to the distribution of inhabitants. The Southeast, afterward "The South Neighborhood," was much the least, being far the most populous; next in size was the Southwest, taking in Cady's, Eaton's and other first families, while the great, irregular, sparsely settled Northeast and Northwest seemed almost like separate townships. Committees were chosen for each quarter, to warn the inhabitants to meet together to agree where to set their school houses, viz.: Southeast, Thomas Whitmore and Henry Green; Southwest, James Cady and Samuel Cutler; Northwest, Christopher Peak and Isaac Jewett; Northwest, Comfort Starr and Nathaniel Brown. A school-master was hired for the year, serving three months in each quarter, the school money being "equally divided between each school, according to the number of families that sent their children to school."

Continued friction between the non-resident proprietors and Killingly officials resulted in a thorough investigation and settlement, through the agency of Roger Wolcott and other wise counsellors. The farms so early purchased and laid out were solemnly confirmed and Killingly precluded from farther intermeddling by having her own rights allowed to her. The North society, which during the squabble had petitioned to be erected into a township, was pacified and reconfirmed, the assembly at the same date, 1730, changing its name to that of her most distinguished non-resident, Thompson. This family had always manifested a special interest in their Nipmuck purchase; paid without grumbling the tax imposed by the society, and soon after date had the tract laid out into farms and seven substantial English "tenement housen" erected. The Dudleys also peaceably fulfilled their legal requirements. "Esquire Wolcott," as he was called, sold his farm to sundry purchasers. With Mr. Samuel Morris relations were less amicable. That gentleman

indeed paid off-hand the heavy land-tax, but when he found himself enrolled as a stated member of Thompson parish, and bound by law to pay his share of minister's salary and all other charges, he demurred. The section in which he lived was long supposed to belong to Massachusetts, and all his interests, civil and ecclesiastic, were with that colony, and before the erection of the new parish he had attended church and supported religious worship in Woodstock. At his time of life, and after all his public services, to be compelled to leave the church of his fathers and attend a new service at so great a distance seemed to him an absurdity, and equally unjust to pay for preaching which he had not heard.

But the ecclesiastic laws of Connecticut were not to be contemned, even by so great a man as "Governor Morris." The appointed collector came upon him for lawful dues, and when he refused to pay, took forcible possession of sufficient goods. Mr. Morris indignantly appealed to the assembly, showing, "that he lived seven miles from Thompson meeting house; never attended service there and never should; lived some miles nearer Woodstock, and had attended there till last winter, when he and others obtained a young gentleman to preach with them, and cheerfully assumed the great charge thereof, that so our families might have the benefit of Christian instruction, and not live like heathens; that he had paid a full tax to help build meeting house in Thompson, and prayed to be excused from paying anything more." This request was refused on the ground that Thompson had not been properly notified, whereupon Mr. Morris further represented, October, 1731, "that he could not even in summer, attend worship in Thompson with any tolerable convenience, nor in the winter without extreme peril, because of mountains and rocks to go over and miry swamps to go through; that he had a great regard for the minister at Thompson, and would like to sit under his ministry, but should count it a less evil to stay at home and read good books than to go through so much difficulty and hazard to attend at Thompson parish; that to be obliged to go there would have a tendency to discourage religious inclinations, besides causing a great part of holy time to be spent in very servile labor both to man and beast."

But none of these arguments, though reiterated year after year with much force and cogency, prevailed against the en-

forcement of a legal church tax, though a slight abatement was allowed and afterward a half-rate. The cost of collection must have been more than the sum at issue. Again and again the society was called together "to consider how to proceed in our difficulties with Samuel Morris." Every year committees had to be sent to general assembly to answer these indignant memorials. Legal authorities had to be consulted and paid, while the duty of collecting this disputed tax became so repugnant that many of the best men in the society refused to serve as collector, necessitating the enactment, that every person chosen collector and refusing to serve should be prosecuted in the law. Even as late as 1742, after Mr. Morris had helped establish public worship in his own neighborhood at Dudley, and insisted "that Thompson was more able to maintain their own minister than he was to help maintain two, and for him to pay so much money to Thompson for nothing, was more than God does, or more than men can reasonably require of their fellow creatures," he was only released "one-half of all parish taxes."

In all other respects Thompson enjoyed remarkable harmony. By slow degrees various improvements were effected. The pound so necessary in those days of free commons was constructed in 1735—"a good substantial pound," thirty feet square, with good white oak posts, and a good cap on top of them, a good gate well hanged with good iron hinges, a good lock and key and good staple and hasp—Hezekiah Sabin, pound keeper. "A piece of land" near the French river was given by David Shapley "for a burying place for said society." One of the earliest inscriptions to be found in it is that of a near resident, "Mr. Samuel Davis, who died August, 1727, in the 37th year of his age."

The finishing of the meeting house was delayed for some years. John Wiley and Sampson Howe "were the men to lay the floor," Jacob Bixby furnishing for that purpose for £3 per thousand, 500 pitch pine boards that are good. Simon Bryant, Henry Green and John Wiley had charge of constructing "a body of seats" after the form of those in Woodstock meeting house, using for "stuff," good sound oak timber. Henry Green, Jr., was employed "to provide plank for seats for our meeting house at 7s. per hundred, and the slit work for the seats at 4s. 6d. per hundred, and plank for the heads at 9s. per hundred, of good white oak timber." This body of seats occupied the floor

center, reserving room for seventeen large square pews against the walls of the house, to be built and owned by such members as were able to bear the expense and were thought worthy of such honor. The delicate duty of selecting these seventeen pew holders was assigned to Captain Howe, Simon Bryant and John Wiley, as a committee of nomination, who presented the subjoined list, which was confirmed by a society vote upon each nominee in succession, viz.: Henry Green, Simon Bryant, David Shapley, John Russel, Captain Howe, Lieutenant Sabin, Joseph Cady, Comfort Starr, Nathaniel Wight, James Wilson, Urian Hosmer, John Younglove, John Wiley, Mrs. Dresser, and her son Jacob, Mr. Dwight and his son John. A space on the north side of the house adjoining the minister's "stays" was reserved for a ministerial pew, and the deacons were allowed to build a pew "for their wives and families to sett in." Mrs. Dresser was the widow of the first settler, Richard Dresser, who had died just before the organization of the society. She held a high place among the "honorable women" of the day, and her son Jacob was one of the most substantial men in town and society.

Reverend Josiah Dwight was a retired minister, who after a stormy pastorate in Woodstock found a peaceful haven for his old age on the "wild land west of the Quinebaug." His pew joined the Reverend Mr. Cabot's, out of respect for his office as well as family connection, his daughter Mary having married the Thompson minister. It was then enacted by the Society "that each person that hath a pew granted him shall take it for his seat, and shall take in as many of their family as can conveniently sit therein; also, that each person shall finish the meeting house up to the lower girth, and maintain the glass belonging to his pew." Hezekiah Goffe, a famous builder of the day, was employed to build two pair of framed stairs and lay the gallery floor, and face the fore seats round with good, handsome panel work, all to be done workman-like. Still another committee was required to build seats in the gallery after the form of those in their respected model. So much time was consumed in erecting the elaborate pews and in all the various items, that it was not till March 18th, 1735, that "our meeting house" was sufficiently near completion to require a formal seating. This onerous task was assigned to Joseph Cady, Jr., Henry Green, Simon Bryant and Urian Hosmer, whose "rule to go by" was "computing all the charge of settling the gospel in said Society, having respect also unto age."

It was then, after seven years spent in perfecting this much prized sanctuary, that the builders as one man insisted upon worthier "ways" of reaching it.

Thus happily settled, Thompson parish pursued its way peacefully and prosperously. Its parochial affairs were well administered, and it bore a fair part of town burdens. Simon Bryant, John Dwight, Hezekiah Sabin, Jonathan Clough, Joseph Cady, Jedidiah and Urian Hosmer and Penuel Child were sent successively as deputies to the general assembly. Jacob Dresser was elected town clerk of Killingly in 1744. William Larned managed so well as treasurer of the town that he was voted a special payment for his services. Samuel Morris, in consideration of his maintaining roads and bridges, was exempt for life from town and country taxes. As the fathers passed away they were succeeded by their sons or competent new settlers. Sampson Howe died in 1736, and was succeeded as clerk and captain by Joseph Cady, the richest man in the vicinity. In 1742 Jacob Dresser was chosen society clerk, and John Dwight captain of the company. Jonathan Clough and William Larned succeeded in office Deacons Eaton and Bixby. Penuel Child was appointed in 1742 to serve in the new office of "querister." The Reverend Mr. Cabot, after a faithful and successful pastorate, died in charge in 1756, stricken with apoplexy in his own pulpit while preaching.

He was succeeded the following year by Noadiah Russel of Middletown, another popular and faithful pastor. Among new families connected with the society during Mr. Cabot's ministry were those of James and David Barreŕt, Isaac Stone, Nathaniel Child, John Atwell, Lusher Gay, Samuel Barrows, James Fuller, James Dike, William Alton, Samuel Porter, Jeremiah Barstow, Joseph Town, Josiah Mills, John Holmes, John Flint, Robert Prince, Ebenezer Howard, Francis Carrol, Francis and Joseph Elliot, Samuel Watson, Thomas Ormsbey, who took place among the substantial inhabitants, settling in various sections. The old "quarters" for school purposes were still maintained. In 1752 Samuel Barrows, William Whittemore, Nathaniel Child and John and Samuel Younglove were allowed the privilege of a school among themselves and their own proportion of school money. Five years later other petitioners were allowed a separate school in the northeast corner, "line to begin at Ezekiel Green's, thence east to Rhode Island and north to Massachusetts."

In 1762 a number of the younger men of the society entered

their dissent against the society's proceedings in regard to schools. Michael Adams, Pain Converse, Squier Hascall, James Dike and William Alton were appointed to "vew the districts and see if they thought best to make alterations." They advised the setting off ten school districts and selected a suitable site in each for a school house. Each district was designated by the name of some central or prominent resident, viz.: 1. Landlord Converse's, including Thompson hill and vicinity, "school house to stand betwixt Landlord Converse's and the Widow Flint's, at the end of the lane where Samuel Converse comes out into the country rhoad," which "lane" is the present "Mountain road"; 2. Captain Adam's district, South Neighborhood; 3. Captain Green's district, Quadic and vicinity; 4. Nathan Bixby's district, the present Brandy hill and vicinity; 5. Samuel Stone's district, Northeast corner, from Joseph Munyan's to Rhode Island line; 6. Joseph Brown's district, present "Little Pond district"; 7. Squier Hascall's district, corresponded with the present Wilsonville, extending north to Massachusetts line, school house on the present site, "near where the said Hascall crosses the mill-rhoad in coming to meeting"; 8. Nathaniel Crosby's district, embraced both sides French river, from Nathaniel Mills' to Ebenezer Prince's, corresponding with the present Grosvenor Dale; 9. John Hewlet's, occupied the Northwest quarter, school house to stand where it is; 10. Esquire Dresser's district, in the Southwest quarter of the society, covering so much ground that to have the school "in the senter" would not accommodate the district, and two schools would be needful. The report was accepted as in the main satisfactory. A pitiful petition was soon, however, presented from inhabitants of Hewlet's district, complaining that they had been overlooked by the committee, "who supposed that no one lived northwest of a certain great hill but Clement Corbin, whereas there were *twelve* families there so remote from the school house that they could not send their children there to school, and had little or no benefit (the most none at all) of the school kept there, and never had any of the loan money, and not so much of the tax money as they did pay." These families were immediately set off as District No. 11, Captain Corbin's. After some delay and difficulty Dresser's district was also divided, and the north part set off as No. 12, Perrin's district.

Though debarred from special town privileges, the citizens of Thompson parish were awake to public affairs, and bore as ac-

tive a part in town administration as was practicable under their circumstances. At the annual town meeting in Killingly, 1760, Pain Converse and James Dike were elected selectmen; John Jacobs, John Whitmore, Benjamin Joslin, Daniel Alton, John Corbin, Francis Carrol, highway surveyors; David Barrett, grand juror; Samuel Watson, Richard Child, listers; Ensign Edward Converse, horse brander. In military affairs it was always active. A second military company was formed, taking in the northern residents, in 1754.

A number of Thompson men served in the French and Indian war—Samuel Larned as captain; Diah Johnson, ensign; Isaac Stone, Benjamin Joslin, Zebediah Sabin, Nathaniel Ellithorpe, Luke Upham, Joseph Town, Joseph Newell, Nathan Bixby, Thomas Shapley, Noah and John Barrows, as privates—many of them suffering severely through imprisonment and loss of health. In 1761 Edward Converse was appointed captain of the first Thompson company, then Company 7, 11th Regiment; John Alton, lieutenant; Joseph Elliott, ensign.

After the death of Samuel Morris, the valuable farm upon the Quinebaug was sold by his son to Benjamin Wilkinson, of Rhode Island, a man of great energy, but of restless and roving spirit. The capacious "Morris House" was now opened as a tavern. A shabby old traveler passing the night there, asked Mr. Wilkinson casually what he would take for the whole establishment. He named a large sum and thought no more of it till within a few weeks the old man appeared with a bag full of gold and silver, ready to close the bargain and pay hard cash for it. Amazed at his promptness and ever ready for trade and change, Wilkinson yielded the Morris purchase to the wily old man (Mr. John Holbrook, of Woodstock), and himself removed to Thompson hill, purchasing the "old Red Tavern" and Sabin farm, then thrown into market by the death of Lieutenant Sabin and the removal of his sons. The restless energies of Mr. Wilkinson found ample scope in this new field. As yet tavern and meeting house stood alone on the bare, broken hill-top. The minister's house, built by John Corbin, occupied the present site of Mr. Chandler's residence, southward. The small house built by Samuel Watson was north of the hill, and so encompassed by underbrush that it was said Mrs. Watson lost her way when trying to go to meeting. Mr. Wilkinson cut down the brush, routed off stones and ousted the aboriginal tree-stumps, transforming the rough field

into a comfortable common for "trainings." He "rectified" the pound and set out an extensive peach orchard east of the meeting house.

It was his benevolent practice to plant a peach stone by every rock on the road side, that boys, travelers and church attendants might have a free supply. He also served as the committee for enlarging the meeting house, which was done by cutting the same in two and inserting a strip fourteen feet wide between the bisections. This feat being accomplished, the society proceeded "to culler our meeting house," voting "That the culling of the body of our meeting house should be like Pomfret and the Roff should be culled Read;" Mr. Wilkinson's artistic instincts thus anticipating modern fashions. The inserted strip was laid out into pew spots and sold to such parishioners as were able to build upon them. Other spots were obtained by taking seats from the ancient "body," and little twenty-inch alleys were promiscuously devised "for the people to go into their seats." Three choristers were needed to lead the singing in the enlarged meeting house, together with Joel Converse and Thaddeus Larned, to assist the above "in tuning the psalm." Jacob Dresser, Lusher Gay and Simon Larned now served as deacons.

Mr. Wilkinson's tavern might have been considered as an adjunct to the meeting house, so much was it resorted to before service and at intermission. As a native Rhode Islander he was less strict in his views of Sabbath keeping than his Connecticut neighbors, but only on one occasion incurred official censure, after the whole congregation had been disturbed one hot summer day by what seemed the lugubrious creaking of a very rusty grindstone upon his premises, and after service he was waited upon with formal remonstrance. But to the great astonishment of the committee Mr. Wilkinson had the effrontery to deny the charge, even against the present evidence of their own ears. "Why, there it is grinding now louder than ever," they rejoined. "Come into the orchard and see for yourselves," replied the smiling landlord, and then formally introduced them to a *pair of Guinea hens*, a novel importation, whose doubtful cries, aggravated by homesickness, had subjected the rash experimenter to such official visitation. The "Red Tavern," under Mr. Wilkinson's administration, increased greatly in popularity, and was the scene of many a dance and

merry-making. Taverns were also kept by Edward Converse, James Dike and John Jacobs—the latter tavern becoming in time very famous as the halfway house between Boston and Hartford.

Although money was very scarce in those early days and the resources of the people very limited, Thompson, in some unaccountable way, seemed more favored than its neighbors, its tax-list considerably exceeding that of Killingly's first society. Its main industry was farming; its most convenient market the town of Providence, over the cart road constructed by Nathaniel Sessions of Pomfret. The first reported trader was Mr. Samuel Morris, who improved his eligible position on the old road to Boston by taking in his neighbors' produce and forwarding it to market. Business was carried on in other parts of the parish through the agency of a peculiar institution known as "the Butter cart" which picked up butter, eggs and all sorts of domestic products, to be exchanged for "store goods" in Boston and Providence. This institution was peculiarly valued by the wives and daughters, supplying them with pins, needles, beads, ribbons and little articles of finery dear to the feminine heart, and the return of the freighted vehicle was hailed like a ship from the Indies.

A very flourishing business was started in the South Neighborhood by Mr. Daniel Larned about the year 1770. A great revival of trade had followed the return of peace, especially between Providence and the West Indies, exchanging all kinds of colonial produce for those vital necessities, rum, sugar and molasses. Beginning in a small way by taking in the surplus products of his own neighborhood, Mr. Larned gradually extended business operations over a large section of country, sending carts and agents far up into the new settlements of Vermont and New Hampshire, buying up beef, pork, grain and ashes for Providence market. Taking for a partner Mr. John Mason, of Swanzey, the business increased in magnitude. Larned's store became a great place of resort for all the surrounding country. Rum, molasses, spices and even tea came into common use. It is said that the arrival of the first whole hogshead of molasses at this store was made a matter of public celebration, the children being allowed to indulge without stint in their favorite dainty—roasted potatoes and molasses, crammed down their throats sizzling and dripping. The ideal of supreme felicity, as ex-

pressed by a youth of that generation, was to sit "in the great room," with his especial adorable, and eat fried potatoes and molasses. Larned's store and residence were under the famous "Revolutionary Elm," of the South Neighborhood. Mason built the house now occupied by Mr. William Converse, of Putnam.

Their business, though much impeded by public disturbances, was kept up throughout the war period, and greatly revived after its close. New roads were laid out to accommodate "Larned and Mason." A nail shop was set up for the manufacture of iron utensils; potash and pearl ash made in large quantities; pork and beef packing carried on; great supplies of grain and produce taken in. Finding the maritime transfer of so much merchandise costly and inconvenient, Larned and Mason decided to build a special carrying-ship for themselves. A body of stalwarts was dispatched to cut and hew timber in the Thompson woods, and Green's saw mill engaged for the season. Captain Jonathan Nichols, a newly arrived citizen of much mechanical ingenuity, had charge of the work, and in a few months a neat little sloop was constructed and on exhibition at Quadic ship yard, a truly remarkable specimen of inland enterprise and architecture. Transported by sections to Providence, it was there carefully put together, and successfully launched as the sloop "Harmony," and brought its plucky owners both profit and glory. Under the stimulus and increased population of this flourishing business, the South Neighborhood was considered as quite the head of the new town which took the place of the old parish—"District No. One," as it was named in a revision of school districts.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

THE TOWN OF THOMPSON.—(Continued.)

Organization.—Affairs of the Body Corporate.—Foreign Trade and Traffic — Highways.—Thompson Turnpike.—Fourth of July Celebration.—Protection against Small-pox.—General Progress.—New Town Scheme.—The Civil War.—Temperance Sentiment.—Modern Improvements.—Town Expenses and Government.—The Public Schools.—First Church of Thompson.—First Baptist Church.—Baptist Church of Thompson Hill.—Methodists at West Thompson.—Fisherville Methodist Church.—East Thompson Methodist Church.

TOWN organization was secured with less than customary controversy. In many respects the parish had enjoyed unusual privileges, and its local interests were quite distinct from those of the mother town. In 1761 the vote was carried "that Thompson Parish be set off as a town—Jacob Dresser, Esq., agent for preferring a memorial;" but in the threatening condition of public affairs division was deemed inexpedient. In 1782 it was again voted in Killingly town meeting, "That said town be divided and Thompson Parish be a distinct town," and division again refused by the general assembly. Renewed petition May, 1785, carried the day. The North society of Killingly and its inhabitants were constituted a distinct town by the name of Thompson, said town to be responsible for its share of state taxes, pay one-half the debts and share one-half the credit and stock of the former town, and support the poor belonging within its limits.

In compliance with this act and lawful warning, Thompson held its first town meeting June 21st, 1785, "at the Rev. Mr. Russel's meeting house," on Thompson hill. Deacon Simon Larned, oldest justice and most honored citizen of the new town, was appointed by assembly to preside at the meeting and lead its inhabitants to the choice of moderator and clerk. Jason Phipps, Esq., from the northwest section, was chosen moderator, and Jacob Dresser town clerk. The freeman's oath was then administered to seventy-eight persons. They then voted and

chose Thomas Dike, Esq., Captain Pain Converse, Simon Larned, Esq., Jason Phipps, Esq., Mr. Stephen Brown, selectmen;⁸⁸ Jacob Dresser, town treasurer; Simon Davis, Peleg Corbin, constables; Jason Phipps, Samuel Barrett, Jacob Converse, Ebenezer Prince, John Bates, John Jacobs, Deacon William Richards, highway surveyors and collectors; Amos Carrol, William Richards, fence viewers; Henry Larned, Jonathan Ellis, Samuel Palmer, William Richards, listers; Simon Davis, Peleg Corbin, town collectors; John Wilson, leather sealer; Ebenezer Cooper and Jeremiah Hopkins, grand jurymen; Nathan Bixby, Peter Jacobs, Edward Paull, tithing men; Amos Carrol, sealer of weights and measures; Joseph Watson, key keeper. Captains Daniel Larned and Pain Converse, and Thomas Dike, Esq., were chosen to join with such gentlemen as Killingly should appoint to settle all debts and charges, and divide debts and credits as directed. Jacob Dresser was authorized to purchase books for the town records.

At the annual town meeting, December 12th, some of these officers were replaced by Alpheus Converse, Ensign Joseph Brown, Daniel Russel, Roger Elliott, Captain Jonathan Nichols, Edward Joslin, William Smith, Asa Barstow, James Paull, Joseph Gay, Captain Simon Goodell, John Carrol, James Hosmer, Ephraim Ellingwood, Peter Stockwell, Elijah Bates, John Wilson, providing for a more equable distribution of town offices among all classes and sections. Jacob Dresser was retained many years as town clerk and treasurer. Accounts between the two towns were settled with promptness and harmony, the "credits" allowed to Thompson out-balancing the debts by some twenty-five pounds. By an arrangement with the ecclesiastic society the meeting house continued to be used for town meetings and other public purposes. Jason Phipps was sent as Thompson's first representative to the general assembly. Others sent during these early years were: Obadiah Clough, Jonathan Nichols, Pain Converse, William Dwight, Israel Smith, Thaddeus, Henry, George and Daniel Larned, Simon Davis, Joseph Gay, John Jacobs, Jr., Noadiah Russel, Wyman Carrol, Isaac Davis.

Major Daniel Larned was elected in special town meeting, November 5th, 1787, to represent the town as delegate to the state convention called to ratify the federal constitution. A committee was soon sent to consult with committees from other northern towns with regard to obtaining a new county or half-shire, and upon receiving its report the town voted to instruct "our deputies to

join with Pomfret deputies with regard to making Pomfret a half-shire, with this proviso, that we may be free of cost of court house and jail." The young town looked carefully at the *cost* of any expenditure, and managed its affairs with much shrewdness and economy. Amount due for ordinary expenses, allowed January, 1795, including payment of listers, £53; balance in treasurer's hands, £65; debts allowed by town, January, 1796, £56, 16s.; paying bounty for crows' heads, at 8d. a head, agreeable to a rate of the town, 7s., 4d.; whole amount, including abatements, £58, 12s.; balance due from treasurer, £170, 17s., 11d.

School and highway repairs were managed mainly district-wise, with reference to the town in doubtful cases. In military matters there was much enthusiasm, stimulated by the appointment of Daniel Larned to the generalship of the Fifth brigade, the only citizen of Thompson ever attaining to that honor. The several companies included in the Eleventh regiment were filled with willing recruits, and the grenadier and infantry companies equally alert and ready for parade and action. The frequent training and musters on Thompson common were observed with delight by all participants and spectators. The general training held at Thompson hill during the administration of General Larned was unfortunately discommoded by a very severe rain storm, but the spirits of the dripping soldiers were kept up by the bountiful supply of free liquor, furnished gratuitously by the general and his predecessor in office, General McClellan.

The Providence and West India trade, instituted before the revolution by Larned & Mason, was carried on with much spirit until the sudden death of the senior partner, in 1797. His funeral was made the occasion of the greatest military and Masonic display ever witnessed on Thompson hill. The *New London Gazette* reports: "General Larned was buried under arms. His corpse was attended by the brethren of Moriah Lodge to the meeting house, where a sermon was preached by the Rev. Daniel Dow; a Masonic address and prayer followed by the Worshipful Master of Moriah Lodge. A procession was then formed and moved to the grave in the following order: Military; Masons, clothed with the badges of their order; Clergy; Pall (corpse) bearers; Mourners and Strangers." After an elaborate eulogium pronounced by Mr. Daniel Putnam, the ceremonies were closed

by a Masonic prayer by the worshipful master and a sprig of cassia deposited on the coffin.

The privilege of ordering and making her own highways was joyfully assumed by Thompson, ever painfully conscious of early privation in this regard. "A road from Thompson to Muddy Brook Line by the way of Mr. David Jewett's," and another from Child's mills (now Wilsonville) to Dudley line leading to Dudley meeting house, were at once allowed; also a special road for the accommodation of Larned & Mason, running east of Fort hill through "the Thompson Land," considerably shortening the distance to Boston. Travelers over this road were accommodated at the new tavern opened by Mr. James Dike. New roads were laid out in various sections, and many old ones rectified. The project of establishing turnpike roads with stage coaches and mails running regularly over them was hailed with enthusiasm. Captain Jonathan Nichols, Israel Smith and Jacob Dresser were commissioned by the town "to wait upon the committee appointed by the General Assembly to view and lay out a stage road from Hartford to Massachusetts or Rhode Island Line." Captain Nichols and his associates were incorporated in 1797 as "The Boston Turnpike Company," and to him was entrusted the oversight of constructing the road. The work consisted mainly in straightening and widening roads previously existing, viz., the north and south road through the town, and the old road to West Thompson. A change was made in the road over Thompson hill which previously ran considerably west of the present lay out. A new bridge was built over the French river, formidable gates and toll houses erected, milestones lettered and set up, and the Boston and Hartford turnpike opened for public accommodation, bringing in the stage coach, daily mails and nineteenth century civilization.

Business was made much more lively but town expenses proportionately increased. The proposal to lay out another turnpike from Rhode Island line to Dudley, east and west through the town, met with strong opposition from reluctant tax-payers. A committee was appointed to lay out such road—Captain Jonathan Nichols, Simon Davis and Roger Elliott to wait upon them. The town rejected their report and refused liberty to begin the road. After some years' effort the town refrained from opposing petition. Elijah Crosby, Joseph Watson, Nathaniel Jacobs, Peleg Corbin, Thomas Chaffee, Noadiah Russel, John Nichols, and

associates were thereupon incorporated as "The Thompson Turnpike Company," in 1803, and a second turnpike was soon opened, becoming a main thoroughfare of travel between Providence and Springfield, intersecting the Boston turnpike on Thompson hill. Stages were run daily over both lines, and a vast amount of travel and teaming passed over them. A third turnpike was at about the same date constructed in the south part of the town, known as the Woodstock and Thompson turnpike, furnishing another route to Providence, and connecting westward with Somers. These enterprises brought heavy bills of expense upon the town, increasing the annual outlay from seven or eight hundred dollars to over two thousand; but by care and larger assessments all debts were paid, and in 1810 and 1811 expenses had dropped down to less than a thousand dollars, with a balance in the treasury. Nathaniel Mills succeeded as town clerk and treasurer in 1798, serving faithfully many years.

Increased business and growth in all parts of the town more than counter balanced the outlay. Thompson hill enjoyed a special boom with its stages and new inhabitants. Its first store was opened in 1796, by Daniel Wickham, in a new building east of the common, now the rear of Doctor Holbrook's residence. A new tavern house was built on the site southward by George Keith, especially for the entertainment of stages and their passengers, which after many years of service has been recently demolished. The present "Watson House" was built by Mr. Joseph Watson in 1798. Several other houses were built on the Providence turnpike. Enterprising young men from various parts of the town were drawn to the growing village. John Nichols, 2d, and Theodore Dwight entered into partnership, erecting a store at the intersection of the turnpikes, on the site now occupied by Mr. Scarborough's residence. The only house north of this was that now occupied by Judge Rawson, built by Mr. Samuel Watson in 1767, and long the residence of his venerable widow.

The new business impulse quickened all parts of the town. Labor came into demand and land increased in value. The farms east of Fort hill, owned by the English Thompsens, were now brought into market, Thaddeus and Daniel Larned procured a quit claim deed from the agent of the family in 1803, for fourteen thousand dollars, and soon sold out the farms to lessees and other purchasers. The last of these substantial "tenement

houses" has been taken down within a few years. Manufacturing interests were now coming to the front. The various saw mills on the different streams were busily at work. Josiah Perry and Elijah Child carried on grinding, sawing and dyeing on the French river, in the extreme north of the town. Rufus Coburn and Alpheus Corbin engaged in clothiery and potash works on the Quinebaug, at the present New Boston. Stephen Crosby was equally active in similar works on the site of the present Grosvenor Dale, and talk of new discoveries in cotton spinning was already in the air. In the extreme northeast Joseph Joslin was running mills, making potash and helping open Buck hill to civilization, himself carrying through the first cart road over that benighted section. A sometime resident of Rhode Island, and believer in state rights, he was one of the early leaders in organizing the Jeffersonian party in Thompson.

The early politics of the town were strongly federal and conservative, and it was not till 1803 that sixteen votes were cast for the republican or administration party; but so rapid was its growth, enhanced by Methodist and Baptist votes, that in 1806 it cast 96 votes, only 13 less than the federalists. The first Fourth of July celebration on Thompson hill was held by the Jeffersonian republicans the same year—Doctor Knight (postmaster), Captain Jonathan Converse and Joseph Joslin, committee. A bower was put up on the treeless common, a band of music procured, and appropriate toasts prepared. Joseph Wheaton served as president of the day, Elder John Nichols read the declaration of independence and offered prayer, "and there was a good entertainment and a good oration, delivered by Elder Amos Wells, of Woodstock," a Baptist minister. The approaching troubles with England checked the growth of this party, Thompson sharing with the majority of Connecticut towns in its dislike of the war of 1812. Unlike many other towns, she made no formal record of hostility, and promptly fulfilled every requisition of government—a number of her citizens performing military service in New London.

A victory of peace was won in 1811, the town consenting after long urging to provide for "the inoculation of the Kine pox among the inhabitants." A committee was appointed to agree with Doctor Fanchear upon terms and a committee of two in each school district to see that it was faithfully carried out. The persons serving were, in No. 1, George Larned, Eleazer Keith;

2, James Wheaton, Daniel Perrin ; 3, Jonathan Nichols, Jr., John Elliott, Jr.; 4, Noadiah Russel, James Webb ; 5, John Barrett, Ebenezer Green ; 6, Josiah Comins, Marshall Keith ; 7, James Bates, Elijah Nichols, Jr.; 8, William Lamson, Jesse Ormsbey ; 9, Thomas Chaffee, Isaac Upham ; 10, Timothy Sheffield, Elijah Converse ; 11, Abel Jacobs, John Keith ; 12, Samuel Porter, Jesse Joslin ; 13, Dolphus Phipps, Jonathan Waters.

John Nichols was chosen clerk and treasurer in 1814. It having been decided in 1816 by the ecclesiastic society to build a new meeting house on the site of the old one, the town defrayed the expense of removing the old church edifice across the street and fitting up a hall for permanent town purposes. The first page of a new book of town records now ordered by the town chronicled an important change—the inhabitants were notified to meet at the town house July 4th, 1818, to choose delegates to attend a convention to be holden at the state house in Hartford in August for the purpose of forming a constitution of civil government. George Larned and Jonathan Nichols, Jr., were then chosen to represent the town and took part in that weighty public service. October 5th, the freemen were again summoned to give their votes for or against a ratification of the constitution as submitted to their judgment and decision ; one hundred and seventy-four voted for ratification, ninety-three against it.

At the annual town meeting following the adoption of the new constitution November 30th, 1818, Benjamin Arnold was chosen moderator; Stephen Crosby, Jesse Ormsbey, Joseph Joslin, James Wheaton, John Bates, selectmen ; John Nichols, Jr., town clerk and treasurer ; Stephen E. Tefft, constable; for highway surveyors by districts—No. 1, Simon Davis ; 2, James Wheaton ; 3, John Elliott, Jr.; 4, Hezekiah Olney ; 5, John Burrell, Jr.; 6, Isaac Davis ; 7, Smith Bruce ; 8, Alpheus Corbin ; 9, Lyman Upham ; 10, Ezra Jacobs ; 11, Joseph Benson ; 12, Rufus Brown ; 13, Peter Rickard ; 14, Darius Starr ; David Munyan, Alpheus Russel, Eseck Aldrich, fence viewers ; John Nichols, Jr., Simon Davis, Jr., Stephen Holmes, James Bates, Harvey Lamson, listers ; Stephen E. Tefft, collector of rates ; Smith Bruce, Amos Green, John Brown, Joel Taylor, Elijah Nichols, grand jurors ; Asa Hutchins, Joel Taylor, Archelaus Upham, Millard Bowen, haywards ; Rufus Coburn, sealer of weights and measures ; Darius Dwight, key keeper of the pound ; Josiah Sessions, Amos Green, Jonathan Nichols, Asa Jacobs, Charles Sharpe, tithing men.

Town expenses for the year reported—\$1 609.45. Seven hundred and fifty dollars was cheerfully voted by the town the following year as their reasonable proportion of the sum needed for the removal of court house and jail from Windham to Brooklyn.

Under the new regime of state and county Thompson moved steadily onward, its wealth and population increasing more rapidly than any other town in the county, its thriving manufacturing villages offering remunerative labor and home market. Gradually various improvements were effected; its poor were no longer trundled about town to the lowest bidder, but installed in a comfortable home in the east of the town, with a responsible family to take proper care of them. The upper room of the old town house proving insufficient and inconvenient, a special town building was ordered in 1841. William H. Mason, Faxon Nichols, Talcott Crosby and William Fisher were appointed to fix upon a plan for the proposed building and make a statement of all the expenses. Their report was accepted, the town's right and interest in the old building sold to Messrs. Erastus Knight and Edward Shaw—Talcott Crosby, Jonathan Nichols and Hezekiah S. Ramsdell appointed a committee for building. In case a town meeting should be needed while the new building was in progress, it was voted to hold the same on the piazza in front of the house of Captain Vernon Stiles, and when the new town house shall have been completed, that it shall be the lawful place for holding town and other public meetings.

After holding several meetings during the summer on the piazza of Captain Stiles's popular tavern, the town met in its new hall October 3d, 1842. Jonathan Nichols, Esq., who for twelve years had served as town clerk, was now superseded by Talcott Crosby; George Nichols was chosen moderator; Faxon Nichols, Nelson S. Eddy, Winthrop H. Ballard, James Johnson and Amos Goodell, assessors; John Tourtellotte, Stephen Crosby, Thomas Davis, board of relief; Edward Lippitt, David Wilson, Joseph Tourtellotte, selectmen; Edwin May, constable; Amos Goodell, Silas Bowen, Welcome Bates, Leonard Bugbee, Silas N. Aldrich, grand jurors; George Town, George M. Day, Elijah Carpenter, John Shumway, Pearson C. Tourtellotte, Samuel E. Joy, tithing men; Jeremiah Olney, sealer of weights and measures; Hezekiah Olney, pound keeper; Thomas Davis, Josiah Comins, Joseph Tourtellotte, fence viewers; Talcott Crosby, Jesse Ormsbey, Hez-

ekiah Olney, committee for adjusting town accounts. Expenses were reported as \$1,540. Voted, to allow the school visitors one dollar per day each for time actually spent in visiting schools. Petitioners received liberty to hold their singing school in the town house the ensuing season, under such regulations as should be made with the selectmen, as soon as insurance could be effected on the house. At a later meeting voted, "That the town house be opened for all such meetings as the selectmen shall judge proper, and on such terms as they may prescribe." One of the first public meetings held in this house was in the autumn of 1843, when the children of all the public schools in town, having been recently enrolled in temperance societies, were brought together there, to be confirmed and strengthened in temperance sentiment by the thrilling eloquence of a young orator then lately discovered in Worcester—John B. Gough.

The peace and comfort of the town was suddenly broken in 1849 by a movement to dis sever the southern part of the territory, that it might be incorporated into a new valley town to be called Quinebaug. The village of Rhodessville now embraced a large manufacturing interest, adding much to the tax list and population of the town. This village, and that favorite section known as the South Neighborhood, were to be taken from Thompson and swallowed up in the new town. Thompson's population then numbered nearly five thousand, and it stood very high on the grand list of the state, closely following the cities and large county or manufacturing towns. Apart from considerations of sentiment, to be thus summarily thrust from her high position into comparative nothingness, to sink from "thirteenth on the list" into the rank of perhaps thirtieth or fortieth, was not to be thought of or endured, and all parties and sects agreed in earnest opposition to such a scheme. The town had taken just pride in this thriving village and great pains to satisfy its exorbitant demands for roads and bridges. When called upon to take action upon the petition, Jonathan Nichols was appointed agent to oppose the same, with full power to employ counsel if needful. "Also, resolved, That we, the citizens of Thompson, in town meeting assembled, consider that the division of this town as contemplated by the inhabitants of Pomfretville would be highly injurious to the interests of the town at large, and consequently as highly inexpedient, and that our representatives in the general assembly be and they are hereby re-

quested to oppose in every honorable manner the establishment of said division."

The very urgent opposition of the four towns interested in the matter procured the prompt rejection of the Quinebaug petition, but after taking breath for a season they returned to the charge with increased ardor. Thompson reiterated and confirmed her former resolution and circulated a forcible remonstrance, signed by a large number of citizens. Thomas E. Graves, Esq., was now appointed agent to oppose the petition, which service he accomplished with his accustomed energy and adroitness. In 1852 Talcott Crosby, Benjamin F. Hutchins and William H. Chandler were chosen "to consult and advise" with Esquire Graves in opposing the petition. In 1854 the situation became so alarming, the new town favorers assuming with the name a double portion of the spirit and persistency of Windham county's most famous hero—Putnam—that Thompson was constrained to send a most imposing delegation, viz., Thomas E. Graves, Talcott Crosby, William Fisher, Jesse Ormsbey, Frederic Hovey, Benjamin F. Hutchins, Jeremiah Olney, Silas N. Aldrich and Hosea Munyan, "to oppose the petition for a new town to be called Putnam." Once more the petitioners were defeated and Thompson's delegation returned in triumph. In 1855 William H. Chandler was appointed as sole agent for the town in opposing division. It was becoming manifest that farther opposition was useless; that nothing could withstand the march of progress and fiat of "manifest destiny." The treacherous motion "to send no agent to oppose division" was lost by only a meagre majority of forty-three. Tidings of the inevitable result were received with mournful resignation, and while Putnam joyfully celebrated her victory and independence, Thompson meekly grounded her arms and prepared to die decently. The line between the towns was run by Joseph M. Perrin and William Lester, surveyors. Division of town funds and other needful settlements were accomplished by Adams White and William Dyer, esquires, the referees appointed by the legislature—the charge of two "paupers" and some \$2,500 being made over by Thompson. The running expenses of the town during this costly and protracted contest reached the unprecedented amount of nearly \$4,000 yearly. Erastus Knight and Jeremiah Olney served successively as town clerk and treasurer during this period.

Thompson had so far recovered from this loss and heavy charges as to bear her part in the civil war with becoming loyalty and public spirit. At a special town meeting, called April 29th, 1861, the town voted to appropriate five thousand dollars for extra payment to enlistees, support of their families during their absence, their clothing, equipment and other needful outlay. Messrs. Jeremiah Olney, Lucius Briggs and Hezekiah S. Ramsdell were appointed a committee to carry these votes into effect. At the county mass meeting held in Brooklyn, April 22d, Messrs. Chandler and Olney served on the committee on resolutions, and Mr. Chandler headed the subscription list pledged for the support of government. The popular physician, Doctor John McGregor, went to the front as surgeon of the Connecticut Third, and was taken prisoner while caring for the wounded at the disastrous stampede at Bull Run. His return after fourteen months' wearisome captivity, his earnest and affecting representations and pleas had much influence in quickening enlistment and deepening public sentiment. Many of Thompson's sterling men enlisted in the Eighteenth Connecticut, mustered in August, 1862, with Munroe Nichols, lieutenant colonel, and Doctor Lowell Holbrook, later, as surgeon. George W. Davis served as quartermaster of the Eleventh regiment. Lieutenant Emmons E. Graves enlisted a company in the Thirteenth. Every requisition made upon the town was promptly fulfilled, her soldiers serving in many regiments; her agent, Mr. Olney, and the selectmen looking carefully after the needs of their families; her women enrolled in numerous Soldiers' Aid Societies, busily engaged in furnishing clothing and supplies. The great additional expense, bringing its annual outlay to more than nine thousand dollars, was cheerfully met by taxpayers. True to its early principle and habit of eschewing debt, it paid its bills every year. In August, 1865, a very large bill was brought against it, incurred the last year of the war in connection with raising colored soldiers. A town meeting was called, which promptly voted to raise a special tax of $8\frac{1}{2}$ mills on the dollar by September 20th. A proposition was afterward made to provide for paying the debt by installments, and a meeting called to see if they would rescind the previous vote. It was a warm day in August and work pressing, but the town turned out *en masse* and voted unanimously *not to rescind* the vote passed August 5th, and paid the extra tax without grumbling.

As a temperance town Thompson has a fair record. As public opinion became enlightened upon the question, it declined to license the sale of liquor, and when the local option law was promulgated a large majority voted against license. Finding that the law was in many cases evaded, it was voted in 1873 to appropriate a sum of money to suppress the sale of intoxicating liquors; also to appoint Judge Perry an agent to prosecute, with power to employ counsel to carry on said business. As the foreign element has increased in town, attempts have been made to open the question of licensing the sale of liquor, but it has been invariably refused by a large majority.

Within the last ten years a very great change has been made in the expenditures of the town, Thompson proving itself not only alive but fully up to the times in its views of what is demanded by the civilization of the present age. The clumsy wooden bridges of past generations are fast being replaced all over the town by graceful structures of iron, more costly, indeed, but it is hoped far more enduring. The old district highway system, under which every citizen had liberty to leisurely "work out his own tax" has been superseded by more modern methods, more effective, indeed, but costing the town annually, perhaps, more than double its whole running expenditures of former years. A far greater number of outside poor are helped, doubling expenses in that quarter. School expenses, formerly hardly worth noting, have become under new laws and administrative theories a very formidable item. The price paid for labor and the salaries of town officers are much augmented. Many improvements have been made of permanent value. Money has been allowed for the improvement and care of the town burying grounds. A very beautiful and complete index of the record books of the town was made by the late Mr. Jerome F. Crosby. The town house has been comfortably fitted up with accommodations for the probate records and for town business.

The expenses of the town for the year ending September 15th, 1888, amounted to the incredible sum of over \$26,000. Schools cost \$6,579.37; bridges, \$5,445.89; roads, \$4,441.36; poor house and farm, \$1,157.70; outside poor, \$1,909.69; officers' salaries, \$993.45; snow bills (blizzard), \$905.41; vital statistics, \$50.50; state and military tax, \$2,715.77. The population in 1880 was 5,051, but has probably increased some hundred; children between four and sixteen years of age, 1,415; grand list, \$1,713,420. The

present town clerk, registrar and treasurer, James N. Kingsbury, has held the office nearly twenty years. Present selectmen, Oscar Tourtellotte, Thomas G. Steere, George A. Hawkins; assessors, Hiram Arnold, Luther M. Child, Jerome Nichols; board of relief, George Flint, Oscar Robinson; grand jurors, Thomas Wilber, Barton Jacobs, Thomas Ryan, A. E. Jones, Nathaniel Child; constables, William M. Babbitt, William N. Bates, John Tradeau, George A. Putney; school visitors, Stephen Ballard, E. H. Cortiss, E. F. Thompson. Reverend N. J. Pinkham had previously served many years in this office.

A Probate court was constituted in Thompson in 1832, John Nichols, judge. Previous to that date it had been included in Pomfret probate district. The office of judge has been administered by Talcott Crosby, Jonathan Nichols, Alanson Rawson, George Flint, and by others for very brief periods. Judge Flint entered upon service July 4th, 1873.

Public schools continued under the administration of the ecclesiastic society till 1797, when by a change of law it was recognized in the "capacity of a school society." Liberty had been previously given to the several districts to tax themselves for the purpose of building and repairing a school house, to choose a clerk and appoint a collector and treasurer. In 1798 it was further enacted "that each school society shall appoint a suitable number of persons to be overseers or visitors of its schools, whose duty it shall be to examine the instructors, superintend and direct the instruction of the youth in letters, religion, morals and manners, to appoint at their discretion public exercises for the youth, to visit the schools twice at least during each season for schooling, and particularly to direct the daily reading of the Bible by such of the youths as are capable of it, and the weekly instruction in some catechism, by them approved, and to recommend that the master conclude the services of each day with prayer."

Reverend Daniel Dow, Noadiah Russel and Daniel Wickham were accordingly appointed visitors and "inspectors" of the Thompson school, and on May 1st, 1799, presented an elaborate report, recommending a faithful examination of school teachers, each master to consider it "a necessary requirement to be able to read and write English with propriety," to explain the spelling book, and to perform common arithmetic; that a moral character be considered indispensable, and a knowledge of Eng-

lish grammar very desirable; teachers to exercise their own choice between the shorter Westminster catechism and Doctor Watt's catechism for children. These recommendations were faithfully carried out. Examination of teachers was duly enforced, Bible read daily, and catechism administered. Reading, writing and spelling were taught in all schools throughout the year, to which were added arithmetic and grammar in the winter, sewing and knitting in summer. The school-ma'ams' task of overseeing the sewing, basting and sometimes cutting out and fitting garments, was often very arduous. Some little girls were even required to make underwear for their fathers and brothers in school hours. No girl was thought to have thoroughly learned the alphabet until she had acquired the art of affixing each separate letter perfectly upon an elaborate sampler.

Geography was taught in very economic fashion, the older scholars reading it to the school in place of other reading exercise, sparing the necessity of buying more than one copy. Saturday afternoons they were allowed, as a special treat, to read aloud by turns, in the weekly county newspaper, before recitation in the catechism. Mr. Dow was accustomed to visit and catechize each school in town, if possible, twice during the season—the brethren of the church, resident in each district, making a point of attending with him at such visitation. To make amends for this strictness there were weekly spelling matches, when boys and girls enjoyed the privilege of “choosing up sides” and spelling each other down, ransacking spelling books for the most difficult specimens of orthography. Evening exhibitions were also much in vogue, with declamation, recitation and amusing dialogue. The last day of the winter school was celebrated with especial festivities, the boys contributing pennies to purchase the requisite materials for a generous bowl of flip, and the girls bringing cake and home-made dainties. A popular teacher in the South Neighborhood was accustomed to give the children a closing *ball* in his own house. Five shillings a week was considered ample pay for a school mistress; a successful master could command as much as two dollars. The school house of that date was usually as bare, cold and comfortable a building as could well be devised, but a daughter of Mr. Dow gives a pleasant picture of that in the Central district.

This Thompson Hill district school house must have been quite exceptional. As a rule the school houses were close, crowded, and every way uncomfortable, with great cracks in the floor and about the windows, the huge fires burning the faces of the children while their feet were freezing. The numerous children in every household filled the houses to overflowing, especially in the winter, when the schools frequently numbered more than a hundred pupils. Their progress depended entirely upon the personality of the teacher, some having that native teacher's instinct or faculty which enabled them to stimulate intellect even under those disadvantages. Captain John Green was one of these "born teachers," whose services were in great demand for many years throughout the town. His brother, Winthrop Green, Messrs. Horace Seamans and Winthrop H. Ballard, are remembered as successful teachers. Among the schoolmistresses none gained a higher rank than Miss Hope B. Gay, a shining member of Priest Atkin's celebrated "class" upon Killingly hill, and highly gifted with the art of imparting her own knowledge to others and winning the respect and affection of her pupils. As a rule, however, the standard of the district schools was so low, and the accommodations so poor, that well-to-do families preferred to send their children to select schools or academies. Thompson boys were sent to Plainfield, Woodstock or Dudley Academies. Especially favored young girls had the privilege of a year's schooling in one of the noted "female schools" of Hartford, where they added to solid studies the accomplishments of painting, drawing, music and fine embroidery.

The first piano in town was purchased for one of these young ladies about 1820, who in turn instructed the other girls of the village in those rare arts. The first select school in Thompson was opened by Miss Caroline Dutch, an experienced teacher, in 1824, where a large number of charming young ladies were trained in polite accomplishments. Select schools were also taught by Messrs. Welcome Wilmarth, David Fisk, — Cooley and Matthew Mills. In 1837 a high school was opened by Mr. Thomas P. Green, of Auburn, Mass., which gained a more permanent standing and higher reputation. Woodstock Academy suffering a serious lapse at that time, its young men came over to the Thompson school, as well as many from other county towns and from Rhode Island. Mr. Green

and his sister were not only stimulating and successful teachers, but they knew how to carry through an attractive "Exhibition," held yearly in the Congregational meeting house on the Green, which added much to the prestige of the school. In 1840 the old tavern house was purchased by Messrs. Joseph B. Gay and William H. Mason, and transformed into an academy building and boarding house, where the school flourished for a number of years. A few years after the demise of Mr. Green's school, viz., in 1851, another high school was opened by Mr. Henry Parker, an experienced teacher, which soon merged into a "Family and High School," carried on by Mr. Parker and the Reverend Alanson Rawson, in the historic "old Watson House." This school enjoyed a high reputation for thoroughness and good scholarship, and many young people of the town availed themselves of its privileges, while a number of lads from other states found a pleasant home and careful training.

During these years great changes had been wrought in the administration of public schools. Finding that the Connecticut school fund, of which the state was so proud, had proved to some extent a disadvantage, that people took little interest in what cost them little or nothing, and that the provision for public education in Connecticut was actually falling below that of other states, a new departure was resolved upon and effected. Through the efficient labors of Henry Barnard, first state school superintendent, measures were instituted which placed educational matters upon a new basis and led to thorough regeneration or reform. Schools have been formed for the instruction of teachers, laws passed compelling children to be placed under their tuition, and boards constituted to see that all these laws are faithfully carried out. School houses, school books and appliances, school methods, wages of teachers and ways of paying them, have been exhaustively scrutinized and debated, and if public schools in Connecticut are not some hundred per cent. in advance of those of former generations, it is not for lack of discussion, legislation or expenditure. Thompson has labored diligently to keep up with the demands of the age, and under the careful oversight of a competent board of visitors, has reconstructed her school houses, provided them with maps, charts, school books and libraries, graded the schools when needful, and supplied them with as good teachers as could be procured. Some of these teachers are graduates from the town schools, as Mr. Newton A. and the

Misses Ballard, Miss Shaw, the Misses Chace, Knight, Bates, Bixby, Mr. George Town and Mr. Wilfred Mills. No one has done more for public education in the town, both as teacher and visitor, than Mr. Stephen Ballard, often secretary and chairman of the board, and so many of the name are associated with our schools that it might well be called the banner family in this respect.

The First church of Thompson, as already narrated, was organized January 18th, 1730, and Marston Cabot ordained and installed over it as its pastor. He was born in Salem in 1704, graduated from Harvard College in 1724, married, July 22d, 1731, Mary, daughter of Reverend Josiah Dwight. He was a man of learning and sound judgment and a preacher of unusual excellence. The covenant adopted by the church under his guidance shows him to have been of unimpeachable orthodoxy, according to the standard of the day, and that the church was in full sympathy with his views, and "ready to rest satisfied with such admittance of adult persons as is performed by the pastor's examination of their knowledge and experience of the principles and practices of religion." It also covenanted "To obey him that is by our present voluntary election, or those that may hereafter be set over us in the Lord, as such that watch over our souls, and whom we shall always account worthy of a gospel support and maintenance; as also to adhere to a pious and able ministry in this church, laboring in a way of joint concurrence with him or them, to his or their conscientious discretion, exerting the ministerial authority committed to them to recover and uphold the vigorous and impartial administration of discipline among us." The so-called "Half-way Covenant" was admitted by the church, under which children of baptized parents, not church members, were made subjects of baptism.

Mr. Cabot exercised the authority entrusted to him with becoming discretion, and while strictly enforcing the laws against intrusive Separates and Baptists, tempered justice with mercy, allowing such to withdraw quietly from the church without attempting coercion. His relations with his own people were ever most cordial and harmonious, and although the currency was so fluctuating that it was sometimes very difficult to ascertain its real value, the "credit of the salary" was faithfully maintained according to contract. In 1751, £500 were found needful; in 1755, £600 were required and £65 allowed for firewood. His

domestic life was shadowed by the loss of several children in the successive epidemics so prevalent at that period. Eight hundred and thirty infants were baptized by Mr. Cabot in his twenty-six years ministry, but a star affixed to many names indicates their early removal. Whether, in addition to "throat ails" and malignant dysentery, lives may not have been shortened by bringing them into the fireless meeting house to be baptized even in the depth of winter, is an open question. One respected brother of the church, Jacob Bixby, lost his wife and eight children within a short period.

The second pastor of Thompson's First church, Reverend Noadiah Russel, was born in Middletown, January 24th, 1730, graduated from Yale college in 1750, studied for the ministry probably with his father, one of the leading ministers in Connecticut, received a call to settle in Pomfret, which, "very much if not altogether" on account of quarrels about building a meeting house, he felt constrained to decline. "June 7, 1757, preached the first Sabbath in Thompson; July 27 the society had a meeting, unanimously invited me to settle among them in the work of the ministry; Aug. 30 gave my answer in the affirmative, considering their unanimity, and consequently the prospect that there is of my being comfortable among them and serviceable to them; Oct. 5 was kept as a fast previous to the ordination; Nov. 9 was the day of my ordination; Rev. Mr. Putnam of Pomfret made the first prayer; Rev. Mr. Gleason (Dudley) made the prayer before the charge; my brother of Windsor made the prayer after the charge; my father gave the charge; the Rev. Mr. Gleason gave the right hand of fellowship." That very important part of the exercises—the sermon—omitted from the church record, was undoubtedly delivered by the father of the new minister, Reverend Noadiah Russel. Jacob Dresser, Simon Larned and Lusher Gay were then serving the church in the office of deacon.

Mr. Russel received from the society £165 settlement and £65 salary, with sufficiency of cord wood for his own use till he came "into family estate," and then thirty cords a year. "Family estate" was soon established by his marriage with Miss Esther Talcott of Middletown, and the purchase of the "Corbin House," on the brow of the hill, on the site now occupied by Mr. Chandler. His pastorate was eminently serene and peaceful, the well known "molasses story" illustrating

the regard in which he was held by his people. Attempting to remonstrate against the large proportion of molasses with which a worthy dame persisted in sweetening his tea, his hostess only answered with another brimming spoonful and the emphatic assertion, "*clear molasses ain't too good for Mr. Russel*," a saying everywhere accepted as expressing the popular sentiment that nothing could be too good for so good a minister. As a preacher he was sound and solid, but perhaps a trifle heavy and hardly considered equal to his predecessor. He was much beloved by his ministerial brethren, and his counsel and judgment held in high esteem. Doctor Whitney reports: "His mental powers were excellent. He thought and reasoned well, was careful and critical in examining things, capable of forming a good judgment, agreeable and edifying in conversation. His house and heart were open to friends and acquaintances, a lover of mankind, faithful in his friendships, ready to do good and to communicate, exemplary in relative duties." The young Woodstock schoolmaster, Mr. Timothy Williams, in his contemporary diary, gives us the opportunity of attending service in the old meeting house and learning something of his preaching, viz.:

"Jan. 7, 1787, Weather very cold, walked to meeting and heard Mr. Russel preach very well, A. M. from John iv. 24, God a pure spirit; spent the intermission at Mr. Russel's; sat in Esq. Larned's pew P. M. with Major Simon Larned, and heard a fine, close New Year's sermon from Psalm xc. 9, 'Our years pass away as a tale that is told.' Mr. Russel observed seventeen persons had died last year, although it was remarkably healthy; exhorted us to inquire whether we were better prepared for death than when the last year began. If not we were vastly more unprepared, &c., much to the purpose. Jan. 14. Rode in slay to meeting house; heard Mr. Russel from Matt. xxv. 14, 15, on improvement of talents. If the unprofitable servant was so severely punished merely for neglecting his single talent, what would be the condemnation of those who waste, squander and misimprove their many talents. Dined at Rev. Mr. Russel's with Major Simon Larned, and sat with him and lady in Mr. Russel's pew, P. M." Between the two Sundays the young schoolmaster spent one evening by invitation at the minister's with agreeable young company, "took tea and played at Alphabetical Induction, huz-zling the bag and shifting two corks."

Mr. Russel was a man of great punctuality, conservative in his views, "very strict in his attention to the order of society." His temperament inclined him to great moderation, and during the revolution his sympathies were with the mother country, and his accustomed prayer for "King George and all the members of the Royal Family," was made a part of the Sabbath service as long as it was in any way suitable. Yet by his great prudence he maintained this difficult position without giving offense. His prudence was also manifested during the Dodge episode, when that audacious young reprobate offered to preach in his pulpit. The Woodstock minister, by declining such overture, brought upon himself a troublesome lawsuit, heavy costs, and a scathing castigation from Judge Swift. "How different," says the judge, "the conduct of Reverend Mr. Russel," who himself attended the service and assisted in the public worship, thereby endearing himself to his parishioners and all good men, and instead of producing mischievous consequences was productive of peace and harmony. Thus quietly amid troublous times the years glided away and Mr. Russel was considering the necessity of employing a colleague, when, like his predecessor, he was suddenly removed. A newspaper reports—"Died at Mendon, Mass., Tuesday, October 17, 1795, Rev. Noadiah Russel, of Thompson, Conn. On the Thursday preceding, Mr. Russel, his wife and son entered upon a journey from their house to Boston, proceeded leisurely, arrived at the Rev. Mr. Alexander's on the following Monday. Towards evening sat down at table for refreshment. Then Mr. Russel was suddenly seized with apoplexy, and continued with little or no sense or motion till about eleven the next evening, when he expired. The remains were brought back to Thompson for interment on Friday, on which very mournful occasion a sermon was delivered by Rev. Josiah Whitney, of Brooklyn, from Heb. vii. 23."

The number of children baptized during Mr. Russel's ministry was 926. Additions to the church had been less frequent during this period, "a great spiritual dearth" prevailing during the revolutionary war and through the remainder of the century. Five hundred and five members had been admitted into the church between 1730 and 1795. Deacons Thomas Dike and Joseph Gay had entered upon service.

After a brief interval Mr. Daniel Dow, of Ashford, received a call to the vacant pastorate. After graduation from Yale Col-

lege in 1793, he had pursued theological studies under Reverends Doctor Goodrich, of Durham, and Enoch Pond, of Ashford, supporting himself meanwhile by teaching psalmody, and was licensed to preach, by the Windham County Association, May, 1795. He had but just passed his twenty-third birthday, and was very small of stature, so that when he first appeared in Thompson as a candidate he was taken for a boy who had come for the doctor, and quite amazed the family when he made known that he purposed to supply the pulpit. His ability and promise were quickly recognized, and he received a satisfactory call, although his orthodoxy was not quite up to the requisite standard, he having "fallen into some mistakes and inconsistencies, in consequence of having read many erroneous books." It was a time of great doctrinal ferment. High Calvinism was in vogue, and the ministers composing the majority of the Windham Association were keenly alert to any taint of unsoundness. The examination of the candidate was held in Esquire Dresser's tavern. A little girl peering into the room carried through life a vivid picture of the youthful divine standing in the center of the room, with his coat thrown off, and sweat raining down his face; like a farmer's in a July hay-field, parrying the thrusts of his ministerial inquisitors. Whatever his sentiments, he held his own triumphantly, and was successfully ordained and installed, April 20th, 1796—"a day of much rejoicing and mutual congratulation. The people loved their young minister and he loved the people." "To be further qualified for the office of a bishop," he had previously become "the husband of one wife," the daughter of Deacon Jesse Bolles, of Woodstock.

Fifty years later Doctor Dow thus detailed his early experiences, and the aspect of the times: "The church I found to be in a very cold, back-slidden state; very few of them willing to converse upon experimental religion, or ready to give a reason of the hope that was in them, if they had any religion at all. The congregation seemingly intent upon nothing but vanity and folly. My flock scattered over the whole town, an area of about eight miles square. Various denominations of Christian people contending with each other about the shells and husks of religion, while they appeared to pay little or no attention to the substance. Intemperance greatly prevailing, and moderate drinkers, as they were called, drinking most immoderately. Errorists of every kind running to and fro, and many having itching ears running

after them. Some openly avowing their infidelity; while others were proclaiming good news and glad tidings; by which they meant that impenitent sinners, drunkards and all were sure to go to Heaven. . . . My people were all very friendly to me. They filled the old meeting house well, heard what I said to them with as much satisfaction as they would listen to a song, but there was the end of it. Nor was it in my power to awaken them. I preached what I thought good sermons, great sermons, sermons full of excellent speech and moral suasion, sermons good enough to convert anybody, and yet they had no more effect in awakening and converting sinners than a pop-gun discharged against an impenetrable rock. . . . But in all this the Lord taught me an important lesson. I was brought to see that nothing short of the power of God can either awaken or convert a sinner. From that time I preached the doctrine of grace more plainly. I expurgated my system of divinity of all Arminian notions, and my language of such phrases as were capable of misconstruction . . . and determined to preach all the doctrines of grace if I possibly could, as plainly as Christ and his Apostles preached them. Soon I began to perceive a very different effect. The Lord did what the preacher could not do . . . and from that time to this we have had repeated occasion to say: 'What hath God wrought?' '*

Material prosperity kept pace with spiritual. The ancient house of worship was once more renovated and crowned with steeple and bell by private enterprise. A great crowd of people assembled to witness the hanging of this most welcome bell, June 2d, 1798. A clock was also procured and inserted, and twenty dollars a year allowed for ringing bell and taking care of clock. Two dollars yearly were also paid "to sweep the house once in two months and clear off the cobwebs." The society committee was directed "to procure and hang" a conductor to said steeple. Mr. Dow was always much interested in church psalmody and a singing school was now opened and four new choristers appointed. Although so prosperous in the main, money was still so scarce that it was found difficult to raise the three hundred dollar salary promised the minister and measures were set on foot for establishing a fund, the interest thereof to be for the support of the Gospel. This was successfully accomplished in 1809—the sum of \$5,000 being raised by many subscribers.

*Semi-centennial preached by Doctor Dow, April 22d, 1846.

In 1815, the meeting house was so damaged by the memorable "September Gale" that its renovation was deemed impracticable. Thaddeus and George Larned, Elijah Crosby, Zadoc Hutchins, Isaac Davis, John Nichols, Noadiah Russel, David Town, Daniel Dwight, John Brown, Roger and Joseph Elliott, and James Bates, were appointed a committee for building a new meeting house. A Building Association was formed, subscribers agreeing to build a house, not expending over \$6,000. A native architect, afterward very celebrated, Mr. Ithiel Town, furnished the plan; Elias Carter served as master builder; Harvey Dresser, of Charlton, executed the handsome painting under the lofty pulpit, so artfully simulating a stairway partly veiled with crimson drapery that children were always wondering that Mr. Dow did not make use of it. The dedication of the new house, September 4th, 1817, was one of Thompson's especial gala days—the singing under the direction of a veteran leader, Mr. Charles Sharpe, surpassing anything before attempted. The choir met at the gate of the parsonage and marched in procession in pairs, led by the chorister and first soprano, to the meeting house, singing all the way, but so timing march and song that as they crossed the threshold, "Enter his gates with songs of joy" was on their lips. They also sang "Old Hundred," "Marlborough," and lastly, "Denmark," with astonishing force—"the ro-ho-ho-ho-ling years" being so drawn out and intensified as "not only to astonish the waking multitude but would have aroused the Seven Sleepers." The new meeting house, with its heavy galleries and elaborate pulpit, was greatly admired, although wholly destitute of any accommodations for Sabbath school or conference meetings. Mr. Dow was at this date one of the most popular and eloquent ministers of the county. The singing of the choir was exceptionally fine, and the impressive figures of the venerable deacons, Aaron and Moses Bixby, seated beneath the pulpit, added to the effect of the whole service. Children supposed that their names were *ex officio*, and that all deacons were called Moses and Aaron.

After some years of unsuccessful experiment, a Sabbath school was established in 1825, Deacon Josiah Thayer superintendent. Deacon Thayer, with Deacons Charles Brown and Daniel Alton, were in service many years. The pastorate of Mr. Dow, prolonged for more than fifty years, was marked by many striking events and changes, but the early love and admiration of his

people remained unchanged. A man of deep convictions, great ability and many striking qualities, he impressed himself very deeply upon the minds of two generations. A keen controversialist, perfectly sure that he was in the right, his early relations with other denominations were not harmonious. When invited to speak upon the platform at the first Methodist camp meeting, he repaid the courtesy by denouncing, in most straightforward terms, their whole method of procedure. Young people, timidly questioning the validity of their baptismal sprinkling in infancy, were treated to a sermon upon vain jangling and the keen query, "Have not some of you been *jangling* about your *baptism*?"

The pertinency of his texts was very remarkable, and his peculiar and emphatic mode of announcement and reiteration gave them more power. He used no notes; discourse and illustration were wholly based upon scripture, which he had at tongue's end from Genesis to Revelation. Wrongdoers in his own congregation found little mercy. When, after keen, incisive glance, he announced for text—"How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity?"—those who had attended dance or merry-making during the week knew very well what was coming. Meeting one Monday a young lawyer of his congregation, he remarked that he had missed him from his place in church the preceding afternoon. "Yes," said the young man, "I was invited to attend the dedication of an Universalist hall up north; had a great time there—a band of music from Southbridge, a Universalist minister offered prayer, and *I* preached the sermon." "No doubt the Devil was very much pleased with the whole performance," was the instant reply.

Softening with advancing years, Mr. Dow relaxed from earlier denominational exclusiveness, and enjoyed much pleasant fraternal intercourse with Baptist and Methodist ministers. His long experience and intimate acquaintance with family histories made him exceedingly effective and impressive upon funeral occasions, which he regarded as special means of grace. He delighted to preach upon the fulfillment of prophesy and the restoration of the Jews, but opposed the Millerite delusion so effectually in a series of sermons that not one of his congregation embraced this belief. In 1840 a doctor's degree was conferred upon him by Williams College. In April, 1836, he preached an appropriate discourse upon the words, "Forty

years I have led you in the wilderness." Ten years later people gathered from far and near to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of his settlement and listen to most beautiful and touching reminiscences from the ever-beloved pastor. Original hymns by his son, J. E. Dow, of Washington, and Mrs. Anna S. Larned, added to the interest of the occasion. Doctor Dow continued to preach with unabated animation and power for more than three years, till suddenly stricken down from heart failure, on the eve of July 19th, 1849, after his return from officiating at a funeral. An immense congregation attended his funeral the following Sabbath. The sermon was preached by his ministerial brother and friend, Reverend Roswell Whitmore, of Killingly. His aged widow survived till 1853. The first three pastorates of the Congregational church had thus covered a period of one hundred and nineteen years.

Deprived so suddenly of their lifetime leader, the church, like sheep without a shepherd, did not know which way to turn, but a chance word left by Doctor Dow led to the immediate choice of his successor, the first and only candidate, Reverend Andrew Dunning, of Brunswick, Maine; born July 11th, 1815; graduate of Bowdoin; ordained at Plainfield, Conn., May 24th, 1842; dismissed January 26th, 1847; installed over the Congregational church of Thompson May 15th, 1850; died in charge, like his predecessors, March 26th, 1872, an honored member of a remarkable ministerial succession. Lovely in person and character, eminently prudent, peace-loving, sound in judgment, able in discourse, the pastoral work of Mr. Dunning fully justified the spontaneous choice of his people. Although the withdrawal of population to the valleys was now telling heavily upon the hill churches, and many valued members were thus removed from Thompson, the church maintained a good record throughout Mr. Dunning's ministry. In 1856 it took possession of a new and elegant house of worship, opposite the former house, Mr. William H. Mason bearing a large share of the cost of construction. Dedication services were observed with the usual enthusiasm, Mr. Dunning presiding with grace and dignity, and preaching an appropriate and impressive sermon. A suitable organ was soon after placed in the church, through the instrumentality of the ladies of the congregation.

Smitten with fatal disease while yet in the prime of manhood, and not attaining "unto the days of the years of the life" of his

fathers in the ministry, Mr. Dunning was permitted in a very special manner "to glorify God" in the heroic fortitude with which he bore his sufferings, and in his dying testimony to the faith which had supported him. His long illness "was a perfect triumph of grace." His funeral sermon was preached by one of his own spiritual children, Reverend Joseph P. Bixby. The inscription on the tablet in the Congregational church edifice delineates most truthfully the characteristics of this beloved minister: "Servant of the Lord . . . gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient . . . thoroughly furnished unto all good work."

Four pastors in one hundred and forty-two years was Thompson's excellent record in 1872. *Five* since that date show its ability to keep up with the times. Reverend Joseph Bodwell was installed as pastor December 16th, 1872; dismissed in the autumn of 1874. Reverend John A. Hanna was installed July, 1876; dismissed October, 1879. Reverend Aaron C. Adams served as acting pastor from December, 1879, to May, 1887. Reverend Marcus Ames entered upon service as acting pastor December 1st, 1887, but in three months was stricken down with illness and died during the year. Reverend George H. Cummings was ordained and installed May 24th, 1888. In these later pastorates the church has faithfully maintained its original pledge "to adhere to a pious and able ministry," each minister having his special excellences and devoted adherents. Since the resignation of Deacon Charles Brown, who served more than forty years, the office has been filled by Deacons Elijah Crosby, Charles Brown, Marcus F. Town, Josiah W. Dike—all descended from early members of the church. The present chorister, Mr. Andrew Mills, has been a member of the choir more than half a century. Messrs. James O. Mills, Charles Baldwin, B. F. Hutchins and Jerome F. Crosby have also served as choristers. It is a remarkable fact, illustrating the lamented dying out and emigration of native New England families, that of the twenty-eight original members of the First Thompson church, only *one*, Henry Green, is represented by name on the present roll of membership. Two or three are still represented in the female line. Descendants of Samuel Converse, Israel Joslin and Ivory Upham are now numerous in different parts of the town.

The first Baptist church in Windham county was formed in Thompson parish in 1750. Jeremiah Barstow, of Sturbridge, appears as the first Baptist exhorter, suffering a month's impris-

onment in Windham jail for presuming to preach without permission from constituted authority. "Gone to ye Baptists" is the mournful record of good Mr. Cabot against the names of those who yielded to his enticements. Refusing to pay rates for the standing society, they were "strained upon" by collectors, and suffered various trials, until embodied as a "Six Principle Baptist Church," with Elder Wightman Jacobs for their pastor, and united in association with other churches in the vicinity. Its existence was, however, short and troubled, and it became extinct upon the removal of its pastor and leading members to Royalston, Vermont, in 1769. Finding themselves exposed anew to taxation for support of the standing order, and being fully in harmony with Baptist sentiments, a Baptist society was formed November 17th, 1772, some seventy-five subscribers expressing their regard for the Baptist constitution and way of worship, their willingness to be helpful in building a house for public worship and in settling a minister, according to their ability, "not believing that there ought to be any compulsion in such cases, or carnal sword used." Mr. John Martin, of Rehoboth, was chosen to preach to them on trial, who preached through the winter in private houses in the vicinity of the present Brandy hill.

After pleasant meetings in June to tell of their experience of God's grace in their souls, James Dike was appointed to write a petition, and Ebenezer Green to carry it to the mother church in Leicester, Mass., asking leave to embody as a distinct church. September 9th, 1773, these petitioners, viz., Widow Deborah Torrey, Mary Green, Elizabeth Atwell, Sarah White, Widow Deborah Davis, Lydia Hall, Hannah Jones, James Dike, Ebenezer Green, Jonathan Munyan, Levi White, Thaddeus Allen, John White, together with John Martin, John Atwell, John Pratt, James Coats and Levisa Martin "firstly gave ourselves to the Lord and to each other and signed a written covenant," and thus became embodied. On the same day Mr. Martin was called to become the minister of the church, the society concurring without "one vote to the contrary." James Dike and Ebenezer Green were elected deacons. Ordination services were held November 3d, 1773, under a large apple tree near the Jacobs Tavern. Elder Ledoyt of Woodstock began the public service with prayer. A sermon suitable to the occasion was preached from Phil. i. 18, by Elder Isaac Backus, Elder Green of Charlton gave

the charge, Elder Winsor of Gloucester the right hand of fellowship—all conducted with decency and order. The deacons were formally ordained, December 9th, the church having previously decided that each had a gift of prayer and exhortation that ought to be improved for the benefit of the church, but that it ought to be "limited, viz., he ought not to rise up of his own head and open the meeting by prayer," but wait the suggestion of the elder; likewise the gift of exhortation should not be indulged in unless "he could see any point that he could advance any further upon in agreement to what had been said," and "if the church in general should judge that he did not advance anything forward, or give some further light," he should be gently reprov'd, but the *third time* he attempted and advanced nothing forward, he should be silenced. It is not surprising that upon reconsideration the church "disannulled that vote concerning Dea. Dike's and Dea. Green's gifts, and ordered that vote to be crossed out, but willing they or any other brother should improve according to the ability that God shall give at proper times and seasons as the church shall judge." A meeting house was built the following summer on land given by Benjamin Wilkinson, the large hearted proprietor of the old Red Tavern on Thompson hill, "in the fork of the roads where Oxford and Boston roads meet," Ezekiel Smith, Ebenezer Starr and Jonathan Munyan, building committee. "A vote was called whether we would allow this Baptist church the *decisive vote* in choosing her gifts to improve in the meeting house we are now about to build, and it was voted in the affirmative;" by which action the control of the house was given to the church. Many were added to its membership, and public worship was largely attended. In 1792 Pearson Crosby and Jonathan Converse were chosen deacons.

In 1796 Brother Solomon Wakefield had liberty "to improve his gifts and hold meetings, when the door may open at any time or place, when he is free to do the same," and the clerk gave them "credentials to go forth to preach." Some serious difficulties had then arisen in the church, due mainly to dissatisfaction with the pastor, whose mind was somewhat unsettled with advancing years. A part took sides with the minister. September 7th, 1797, a council was held, which resulted in division of the church, "each individual, male and female, to have full liberty to join which party they choose." Twenty-seven members thereupon withdrew and set up worship for themselves in an obscure cor-

ner, known as Oxford Gore, with Elder Martin for their minister, The majority remaining soon after united in choice of Pearson Crosby. Resigning himself wholly to the judgment of the brethren, a council was held November 7th, 1798, which unanimously voted, "Satisfied with the work of grace on his heart, his call to the ministry and system of doctrine." On the day following he was ordained and inducted into the ministry, "all of which was attended to with a degree of becoming solemnity." The faithful labors of the new minister were crowned with abundant success, and in a few years the membership of the church had largely increased. Thomas Day was added to the number of deacons.

Though so prosperous in the main it was found difficult to provide a support for the minister. After laboring more than two years, it was voted to pay Elder Crosby forty dollars for his past services. A legacy from Deacon Ebenezer Green, and liberal subscriptions from others, enabled the society in 1801 to purchase a farm "to provide a place of residence for our teacher or minister near our meeting house," which, with an annual salary of eighty dollars enabled him to provide comfortably for the wants of his large family. In 1803, a new meeting house was erected—Elder Crosby, Deacons Jonathan Converse and Thomas Day, Captain David Wilson, Joseph Dike, Abel Jacobs, building committee. A suitable site was purchased "on the great turnpike road from Boston to Hartford." May 19th, more than a hundred men assisted at the raising, "having dinner, supper and liquor enough provided," and the work of building was pushed forward so efficiently that in August the Sturbridge Association of Baptist churches was held in the new house. Pews sold to ready purchasers helped defray the cost. The church continued to gain in numbers and its new meeting house was well filled with attentive hearers. It was very interesting on a Sabbath morning to see the people flocking thither by the old by-ways and "across lots" from all sections. Elder Crosby was a strong and eloquent preacher, particularly gifted on funeral occasions.

In 1805, a standing committee was instituted, consisting of the pastor, deacons and five brethren, to settle all matters of difficulty between members without the knowledge or action of the church, called out probably by the great number of trifling complaints lodged against church members in those days,

but hardly consistent with the democratic character of Baptist principles and usages. In other respects the church showed itself remarkably conservative, particularly in "A Rule for the Management of its Temporal concerns" adopted in 1818, which provided "that all delegated power in things of a temporal concern shall be vested in the deacons except in such things as the church shall think proper to add other brethren." The minister's salary was to be raised by an "everedge" upon each member, the deacons "to make out the Everage Bill," lay it before the church for ratification, receive payment, warn and report delinquents, and if any should neglect to pay within a month of the time specified, church fellowship would be withheld till satisfaction was given—a method differing but little from the rate bill and "carnal sword," so repugnant to Baptists. So also with reference to women using their gifts of speaking in public, the church was severely censured for permitting a very able and fervent female preacher to occupy the pulpit in the absence of their pastor.

But in spiritual power the "Old Baptist church" exceeded. Between 1812 and 1815, a remarkable "revival" was experienced, bringing hundreds into the churches. The work was particularly sweeping in the newly-formed "Factory Villages" of the valley, "where for two or three years Satan had seemed to reign with almost sovereign and despotic sway. Vice and immorality were permitted to riot without control. The sound of the violin, attended with dancing, the sure prelude to greater scenes of revelry for the night." Here Elder Crosby reports—"Convictions of the most pungent and powerful character. Some wrought upon in the most sudden manner—one moment swearing, cursing and ridiculing religion; the next, calling upon God to save their souls. In less than a week instead of the violin, the songs of Zion and preaching and conference every evening." Eighteen baptismal seasons, all characterized by the greatest solemnity, were observed by Elder Crosby during this powerful revival. On a bitter cold day, January, 1813, he enjoyed "the glorious sight" of beholding thirteen young people in the very bloom of life following their dear Lord into the cold stream of Jordan, people traveling through the snow and cold eighteen miles to witness this impressive scene. Young people who went about town in ox sleds that tempestuous winter breaking out roads that they might attend these precious meetings, never forgot the

joyful enthusiasm of the time. Many were brought in who became most valuable members of the churches and preachers of the truth. Benjamin M. Hill, afterward secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, was licensed by this church in 1815; Lewis Seamans a few years later. John B. Ballard, one of the subjects of this revival, was afterward very active in ministerial and mission work. Stephen Crosby was ordained deacon in 1815. Three hundred and fifty-four were added to the church in the twenty years of Elder Crosby's ministry. In 1819 he followed his children to Fredonia, N. Y.

His immediate successor was Elder John Nichols, of West Thompson, received into the fellowship of the Baptist church and installed as its pastor May 19th, 1819, an eloquent and powerful preacher. Arthur A. Ross, a licentiate of the church, was associated with him, and served as sole pastor for a short period. In 1823 Elder James Grow, an experienced minister, already well known to the church, became its pastor. A man of deep spiritual experience and fervent piety, his labors were greatly blessed, one hundred and forty-five being added to the church during his ten years' ministry. Reverend Bela Hicks was called as his successor in 1834. At about this date the growing prosperity of Thompson Hill village and the number of influential Baptists living there led to a separation in the church, a number of its members, with their pastor, Elder Hicks, removing their worship to a new meeting house built by them in the village.

Elder Grow resumed charge of the branch in the former meeting house and served acceptably till laid aside by increasing infirmities. Till his death in 1859, he held a warm place in the hearts of many, and his trembling voice was often raised in prayer and affectionate exhortation. Four hundred and seventy-six were baptized by him. With a small salary he gave with a willing mind, and sent Doctor Judson in the early days of foreign missions fifty dollars with his own hand, which Doctor Judson answered in a letter, which brought more than twenty thousand dollars to the Burman mission. Elder James Smither, an earnest preacher, succeeded Elder Grow for two years, and was followed by Elder Nicholas Branch, a man of strong character and a vigorous and original preacher. An attempt was now made to unite in worship with the church at the Center, Elder Branch taking for his text the Sunday before leaving the old meeting house, "Ye have compassed this mountain long enough."

But the words were not prophetic. Older people could not feel at home under new conditions, and returned in a few months to their old church home, and having still their ministerial farm, proceeded to build a new house of worship and make arrangements for permanent abiding. After careful thought and mutual conference, an harmonious separation was effected April 8th, 1846, each brother and sister present of the two churches signifying their assent to the subjoined resolutions: "Resolved, that the Baptist church in Thompson be, and the same hereby is divided, and hereafter constitutes two distinct bodies, the one body to be known as the East Thompson Baptist church, and the other as the Central Baptist church of Thompson. Be it further resolved, that each individual present answer for himself or herself as to which body they wish to be connected with; also, so far as they feel authorized to, answer for their friends."

The Eastern church, with its new meeting house and ample field of labor, has since enjoyed a comfortable existence under the guidance of successive faithful ministers, viz.: Elders I. C. Carpenter, L. W. Wheeler, J. B. Guild, Nicholas Branch, P. Matthewson, D. S. Hawley, W. A. Worthington, N. J. Pinkham. The one hundredth anniversary of the church was celebrated very delightfully by both churches, at the East Thompson meeting house, September 9th, 1873, when a very interesting history of the church was given by its pastor, Reverend N. J. Pinkham. Addresses were made by former pastors, Elders Carpenter and Matthewson, and by children of the church, residents in other towns; also by Mr. James Hill, the oldest member of the church; Captain John Green, a former member, and by ministers from other towns. A beautiful September day, a large and sympathetic audience, the number and variety of addresses, made it a day of rare interest and enjoyment. The present pastor, Reverend Samuel Thatcher, who has now labored some six years with the East Thompson church, has the happy gift of imparting his abounding energy to others, and the church enters upon its second century with cheering prospect of continued usefulness.

At the time of the migration to Thompson hill the Baptists in that vicinity boasted some very strong and influential men, such as Deacon Stephen Crosby and his son, Judge Talcott Crosby, Captain Vernon Stiles, Mr. Richmond Bullock. Under their oversight a comfortable house of worship was erected and opened for service in 1836. Elder Harvey Fittz succeeded Elder Hicks

the following year. The congregation was large and influential, many sterling families from different parts of the town favoring removal to the village. A powerful revival soon followed, strengthening the membership of the church. During the succeeding pastorate of Reverend Silas Bailey, a distinguished and able minister, afterward president of Granville College and other institutions, the church continued to flourish and received large accessions. Jason Elliott and George Davis were ordained deacons in 1840.

Great interest was felt at this date in temperance reform, and many very interesting meetings were held in the Baptist church—the commanding presence and sound judgment of Elder Bailey giving him much influence in this and other public movements. Union temperance meetings were held throughout one winter in the vestry of the church, greatly enlightening public sentiment. The loss of Elder Bailey, when called to wider fields, was much lamented by all. His successor, Elder L. G. Leonard, a man of culture and ability, was less successful. Elder Charles Willett was called to the pastorate June 4th, 1845, and continued some years in charge, assisting very effectively in the harmonious settlement of the two branches in 1846. A council of recognition was held May 20th, at which time Elliott Joslin and Valentine Ballard were set apart as deacons, an office which they worthily filled many years. Emigration was now depleting the church; some influential families removed west, others became connected with the Baptist church of the present Putnam. Each pastor found the number of members decreasing. Elders Thomas Dowling, E. R. Warren and Moses Curtis succeeded Mr. Willett. During the pastorate of Reverend B. S. Morse, 1858–1861, the meeting house was thoroughly repaired. Mr. Morse did good service in compiling a history of the Baptist churches, delivered before his people, and published in the minutes of the Ashford Baptist Association. Elder E. P. Borden supplied the pulpit for two years. Elders W. Munger, B. N. Sperry, Robert Bennett, William Randall are later pastors. For several years Baptists in Grosvenor Dale associated with this church, Messrs. Sperry, Bennett and Randall holding an afternoon service in the chapel of that village, and having pastoral charge of those attending the service; but from the removal of Mr. Briggs and other causes it was discontinued. The present pastor, Reverend S. A. Ives, entered upon service in April, 1888. Deacons Valen-

tine Ballard and Hiram Arnold serve as senior deacons. Charles Arnold and John D. Converse have been recently installed in service. The church edifice has been thoroughly repaired and refitted, absent ones of the church assisting in this work.

Methodists appeared in Thompson at an early date, zealous itinerants preaching in various localities, wherever they could find a hearing. Avoiding the hilltops so long pre-empted by the "Standing Order," they found a willing constituency in the neglected valleys, where population had slowly gathered about the mill sites. The first Methodist preachers remembered are John Allen and Jesse Lee, who gained a few followers. In 1793 a class of six members was formed in West Thompson, with Noah Perrin of Pomfret, for a leader. Joseph Buck, Shubael Cady and Jonathan Allen were prominent among these early Methodists. The Nichols family was a notable accession to their ranks. Captain Jonathan Nichols, the bridge builder and ship architect, became a Methodist, opening his house for the reception of the New England Conference in 1796. This was the sixth Methodist conference of New England, the only one ever held in Windham county. Bishop Asbury, Joshua Hall and many distinguished Methodist preachers were present, and the services were marked by the most thrilling interest. Soon a Methodist house of worship was built west of the Quinebaug, under the direction of Captain Nichols, and religious services stately observed. John Gore, Dyer Branch, Joshua Crowell, Elisha Streeter, Thomas Perry, were early preachers in this house, drawing many hearers from the west part of the town and adjoining sections of Pomfret and Woodstock. In time the rough house became too small for the congregation and was bisected and enlarged.

In the revival season of 1812-1815, many were added to the church, and an earnest brother, Shubael Cady, gathered the children into a class for instruction—one of the first reported Sunday schools in the country.

The Thompson church became so powerful that its name was given to the circuit. It continued to increase and flourish under the care of zealous leaders and elders till, in 1840, a handsome church edifice was erected in West Thompson village. Judge Jonathan Nichols and his kinsmen, Messrs. Faxon and George Nichols, were very active and efficient in forwarding the Methodist interests throughout the town. So also was Reverend Hez-

ekiah Ramsdell, who made his home in West Thompson while preaching in various fields with much eloquence and acceptance.

Thompson and Eastford were now united in a circuit embracing a membership of seven hundred. So large was the field that a division was thought needful, and new societies formed in Fisherville and East Thompson. Soon after this division the mother society was further weakened by the establishment of worship in what is now Putnam, by which many valuable members were removed. The West Thompson Methodist church has, in spite of these losses, maintained a good standing, furnishing an acceptable church home for many substantial families, and also for aged ministers and their families. The venerable Fathers Warren Emerson and John Case spent their last years with this people. Among its many faithful ministers may be numbered: Elders George May, William and Richard Livesly, Edward A. Stanley, Charles Morse, Phelps and Stearns.

A Methodist house of worship was erected in Fisherville in 1842, and a good congregation gathered. One of its first ministers was the honored Father Daniel Dorchester, whose son, Daniel, now so widely known in the denomination, preached at the same time in East Thompson. This society was greatly benefitted through the thoughtfulness of Mr. Joseph Green, by which the debt upon the meeting house was cleared and money left for a permanent fund. Captain George Nichols was one of the early benefactors and constant friends of this society. Situated in a thriving village, with a country around it unoccupied by other churches, this Methodist church has filled an important position and been productive of much good. Its well kept burying ground and continued improvements in the house of worship manifest much enlightened public spirit. The present pastor, Reverend George A. Morse, is completing his third year of service.

The East Thompson Methodist society, organized in a part of the town previously left out in the cold, had a hard struggle for existence in its early years. But the very difficulties in the way made its preservation more important. With the opening of the New York and New England railroad, and its junction at East Thompson with the Southbridge Branch, population increased and the church felt a new impetus. For many years it has been a strong and active body, and enjoyed a succession of faithful and efficient pastors. Its Sabbath school has been kept up with

much interest, its prayer meetings are lively and well attended, and the church and children's festivals are observed with unusual spirit.

Miss Emma Shaw, a native of Thompson village, much esteemed as a teacher in the public schools of Providence, R. I., has won unique celebrity by her energy and enterprise in exploring unfamiliar portions of the American continent. She was one of the first American women to explore our Alaskan territory, and in successive visits has made herself very familiar with the topography and characteristics of that remarkable region. For six successive summers Miss Shaw has crossed to the Pacific coast, over the several trans-continental routes, making each year a special visitation and study of some almost undiscovered country, and describing her adventurous wanderings in graphic letters to many influential newspapers. Yellowstone Park, the Cascades of the Columbian river, the Winnipeg country, the Saskatchewan river far into the territory of the Hudson Bay Company, and other remote and unfrequented sections, have been thus visited and described. Miss Shaw has in a very marked degree the qualities essential for a successful traveler, and the interesting papers recounting her varied and unusual experiences have been greatly enjoyed and appreciated by many intelligent audiences.

CHAPTER XXIX.

THE TOWN OF THOMPSON.—(Concluded).

Manufactures.—The Swamp Factory.—Fisherville Factory.—Water Privileges.—Grosvenor Dale, Masonville.—North Grosvenor Dale.—Changes Wrought by the Manufacturing Interests.—Catholic Churches.—The Swedish Church of Grosvenor Dale.—Connecticut Manufacturing Company.—The “Brick” Factory.—West Thompson.—Mechanicsville.—Quadic Manufacturing Company.—Brandy Hill.—The Northeast Section.—Wilsonville.—New Boston.—Thompson Village.—A “Boom” to Thompson Hill.—Old-Time Taverns.—Social Customs.—Railroad Opening.—Thompson Bank.—Fire Engine Company.—Some Prominent People.—Summer Inhabitants.—The Sons of Thompson.—Thompson Grange.—Biographical Sketches.

THOMPSON'S manufacturing interests are of much value and importance, having been the main factor in its continued prosperity and good standing. The opening of Mr. Smith Wilkinson's cotton spinning factory in 1807, near the southwest corner of Thompson, excited much interest, giving employment to many women and children, and furnishing a nearer market for farm produce. Mr. John Mason, at the extreme south of the town (oldest son of the former merchant, who had then removed to Providence), was the first to propose a similar enterprise in Thompson, and selected the site of the present Grosvenor Dale as the scene of experiment. Persuading Nathaniel, son of Elder Crosby, to associate with him, they attempted to negotiate for the upper privilege with Deacon Stephen Crosby, who had at that time a saw mill, grist mill and fulling mill in successful operation. Failing in this attempt, they invited Messrs. John Nichols, James B. Mason, Theodore Dwight and Rufus Coburn to unite with them as the Thompson Manufacturing Company in 1811, and succeeded in purchasing a suitable tract of land “near the old bridge place, below Stephen Crosby's mills.” Here were erected, in 1812, Thompson's first manufactory or factory building, a wooden house 60 by 36 feet, three stories high, designed to run sixteen hundred spindles. Early in the following year it went into operation, draw-

ing in the class of operators usual at that date, mostly embarrassed men with small means and large families. Society in early mill villages was very chaotic, and according to Elder Crosby, "Satan" gained the mastery in this case, "reigning with almost sovereign and despotic sway." An unfortunate rivalry between the Thompson Company and the "Connecticut Company" at the Brick Factory below helped to give a bad name to this Satanic stronghold. Occupying one of the "miry hollows" so vividly depicted by Samuel Morris a century before, it was considered a very unwholesome and undesirable location, and was derisively nicknamed "The Swamp" or "Swamp Factory" by mocking rivals—a name that clung to it for many years. The future Judge Nichols was the first agent of the company; Rufus Curn sub-agent. Lacking in experience, and probably in the rare executive ability which had given such success to Mr. Wilkinson's experiment, the first aspect was not favorable, but ere many months had passed a complete change of base was effected. "Land, water privilege, buildings, machinery, stock of yarn and cloth," in short, the whole establishment, was bought out by General James B. Mason, for \$12,500. August 11th, 1813, his brothers, Amasa and William H. Mason were admitted into the company, General Mason retaining sixteen-thirty-seconds for himself. Colonel William Foster, of Smithfield, R. I., was made the resident agent, a man of experience and resolute energy. Under his efficient agency order took the place of chaos, and when under the great religious interest of 1814 unruly spirits were farther quelled, the character of the place was almost wholly transformed. Many good and substantial families removed to Swamp Factory, thrifty women welcomed the privilege of weaving the spun cotton into cloth, struggling farmers paid off mortgages by working for the factory, and the usual good results of such pecuniary aid were experienced in many directions. The little school house was soon crowded with native children and many religious services were held there by the different ministers of the town. Through the skillful management of Colonel Foster, the depression in manufactured goods, following the return of peace and the introduction of power looms and new methods of working, was tided over without loss to the company.

After the death of General James B. Mason in 1820, his widow, Mrs. Alice Mason, and Mr. William H. Mason, leased their respective shares in the Swamp Factory to Mr. Amasa Mason.

Colonel Foster was succeeded, as manager, by Mr. Thomas Thatcher, a man of much weight of character and sterling integrity, who continued to administer its affairs with much wisdom and efficiency. In 1826 Messrs. Amasa and William H. Mason purchased of Deacon Stephen Crosby the long courted upper mill privilege, together with dwelling house, numerous mills and eighty acres of land for \$5,800. March 13th, 1826, Mr. William H. Mason sold Mr. Thatcher one-eighth of his interest, the three proprietors now taking the name of the Masonville Company, and giving the name to the village. The square house built by Deacon Crosby became the residence of Mr. Thatcher. A substantial stone factory building was erected as soon as possible 80 by 40 feet, four stories high, fitted for twenty-five hundred spindles—forming the northern portion of the present western group of mills. A handsome row of stone houses was also built for the operatives, and the population of the village very largely increased.

It was the policy of the Masonville Company to manufacture cloth of the highest grade and best quality. With Sea Island cotton, new machinery and skilled workmen they soon attained their object, and the Masonville sheeting stood at the head of the market. With the tariff of 1828 protecting their interests, the Masonville Company prospered greatly, their profits in five years reaching one hundred thousand dollars. In 1831 a brick building was added, four stories high, running twenty-five hundred spindles. The ensuing ten years were mainly prosperous, though the first wooden factory leased to different parties, met some reverses. Mr. Thatcher remained in charge, and was honored as the patriarch and autocrat of the village. "Who is governor of Connecticut?" queried a passing traveler of the gaping children. "Mr. Fracher," lisped a little maid, unable to conceive of higher dignitary. The residents of the village were as yet almost wholly of New England stock. Many good Yankees found employment in the various offices.

Some idea of the society of Masonville at that date may be gathered from the fact that, on the day of the inauguration of General Harrison to the presidency, March 4th, 1841, the ladies of the Congregational Sewing Society were invited to meet with their Masonville sisters, and that *nine* heads of families furnished the turkey dinner with which they celebrated the event. Other families attended the Baptist and Methodist churches. Farmers'

and mechanics' daughters gladly improved the privilege of earning abundant wages, and were among the best customers of the stores at Thompson hill—the usual “factory store” not satisfying their ambitions. In 1840 Mr. William H. Mason became the sole proprietor of the old Thompson factory, which he proceeded to enlarge and refit with new machinery, making it run twenty-seven hundred spindles. Changes were made in the company proprietorship by which seven shares accrued to Mr. Amasa Mason, the same to Mr. W. H. Mason, one share to Mr. Thatcher, one to Captain William S. Arnold, who, after serving in various departments, now had charge of the store. Mr. Amasa Mason, residing in Providence, served as mercantile agent and general manager of the company from the date of organization in 1813 till failing health compelled its relinquishment. Mr. William H. Mason, the last survivor of the Mason brothers, assumed the charge for a few years, till his increasing infirmities induced him to resign the office to his nephew by marriage, Doctor William Grosvenor of North Providence. His wife, Rosa A. Grosvenor, daughter of General James B. Mason, had inherited part of her father's interest, and also one-fourth part of Mr. Amasa Mason's interest. Doctor Grosvenor was descended from one of the first settlers of Windham county, the John Grosvenor who negotiated for the Mashamoquet purchase, now the central part of Pomfret, and whose descendants were ranked among the leading citizens of successive generations. His father, Doctor Robert Grosvenor, entered upon medical practice in Killingly, and was known far and wide as a skillful practitioner and keen business man, a partner in the Killingly Manufacturing Company of 1814, whose ivy-covered “Stone Factory” is now the most picturesque ruin in Windham county.

His son, William, born April 30th, 1810, inherited his father's professional and business aptitude, and after completing medical studies engaged for a time in practice, but finding business more congenial, in 1848 he accepted the position of mercantile agent and general manager of the Masonville Manufacturing Company. June 30th, 1854, Doctor Grosvenor purchased of Mr. William H. Mason eleven and one-half shares, representing his share of the interest, and soon after purchased the remaining rights held by heirs of General Mason, and still later the share held by Captain William Arnold. One share was sold to Mr. Lucius Briggs, an experienced machinist and manufacturer, who, a few years after

the death of Mr. Thatcher, had been appointed superintendent of both upper and lower factories, and proved a most efficient and valuable manager. Under his administration many improvements were effected, especially in regard to the sanitary condition of the village. In early years its unhealthiness was proverbial, and no autumn passed without the prevalence of fever. Mr. Briggs introduced a thorough system of drainage and compelled strict obedience to sanitary laws, so that in a few years the health report of the malarious "Swamp" compared favorably with that of other manufacturing establishments. The change in the character of the residents made this strictness more imperative. The New England born operatives had been almost wholly replaced by foreigners, mostly Canadian French, who usually returned home after making a little money, had no personal interest in the place, and required a strong hand to keep them in order.

With great executive ability and mechanic ingenuity, Mr. Briggs shared in Mr. Grosvenor's advanced ideas in relation to the capabilities of manufacturing enterprise, believing in the policy of large expenditures to ensure commensurate ultimate returns. Their motto from the beginning was progress and continual improvements. In 1859 they erected a stone factory, connecting the Mason factories of 1826 and 1831, and more than doubling their capacity, increasing it to eleven thousand spindles. At the same time a Jevuel turbine wheel of one hundred and eighty horse power was substituted for the two breast wheels formerly in use. In 1861 the old original wooden mill at the lower privilege was moved across the road and a very beautiful and complete brick factory building erected at great cost, 160 by 66 feet, with an ell of 80 by 40 feet, five stories high. It was very thoroughly built, fitted up with improved machinery and the best modern arrangements, one of the best mills in the country at the time of its erection, running twenty thousand spindles. Its power was furnished by Jevuel and Leffel turbine wheels. The former factory was moved across the street and fitted up for tenements. A capacious and tasteful boarding house was also added. After completing these improvements they made provision for further expansion and achievement by buying out Captain Arnold's share in the Masonville Company, and also by the purchase of the whole Fisherville interest.

The factory at Fisherville was built in 1828 on land previously owned by Calvin Randall. So rough and rocky was this region, and so apparently absurd to think of utilizing it to any extent, that wits of the day dubbed the infant settlement Mount Hunger, a fitting counterpart to the neighboring Swamp Factory. John Nichols, Darius Dwight, of Thompson, and William Fisher, of Killingly, formed the first company, but soon admitted Cornelius G. Fenner and Thomas D. Fenner, of Providence, forming what was first styled "The Thompson Village Company," which erected dam, factory building and needful dwelling houses, entering upon manufacturing work early in 1829. The following year Mr. Fisher bought out the other stockholders, becoming sole proprietor of factory and village. The latter now took for itself the name of Fisherville, though some years passed before it outgrew the original nickname. Mr. John Andrews, of Providence, joined with Mr. Fisher for a few years, and it then passed wholly into the hands of William Fisher & Sons.

Mr. Fisher was born in Dedham, Mass., March 15th, 1788; engaged in manufacturing enterprises in Attleborough; removed to Howe's Mills, Killingly, about 1820, and to Thompson in 1828. By his judicious management, in a few years a remarkable transformation was effected. The craggy, rocky woodland had been made to bud and bloom like the rose. Mr. Fisher was much interested in farming, and took great delight in subduing the wild land around him. A class of substantial farmers were brought into the growing village, building homes for themselves in addition to the usual rented houses. The factory of the olden time was well represented by Fisherville—the owner at home among his people, all bound together by common interest and regard; the number of workmen so small that all could be known to each other, and to the families of the proprietors and overseers. Among the operatives were many typical New England women, choosing the independence of factory life, and working on year after year until they had laid up a sum sufficient for future support; others were young girls working to fit themselves for something better, using their wages for schooling or marriage outfit. The factories were a great benefit to many men of small means, who, by the labor of their children and the ready money paid themselves, were able to lift a cumbering mortgage or buy a small farm for old age. Great pains were taken at Fisherville to procure help of good character and standing.

Mr. Fisher was one of the pioneer temperance workers in Connecticut, and before leaving Killingly had drawn up and circulated the first pledge taken in that town. A thriving temperance society was now established in Fisherville, and great efforts were made to bring in every person employed by the company, Mr. Fisher being able to boast on one occasion that every man hired for the year had pledged himself to temperance. Some friction was excited by Mr. Fisher's adherence to Masonry, but caused no serious inconvenience. Mr. William Fisher, Jr., and Mr. J. Ellis Fisher were able and efficient assistants in carrying forward the business—the former as superintendent, the latter in charge of the store. The oldest son, Doctor N. Augustus Fisher, left home at an early age to pursue his studies, and then engaged in the practice of dentistry in Providence. Foremost among the dentists of the day, his high character, pleasing manners, and the patience with which he bore long and wearisome infirmities, brought him even greater respect and honor.

Mr. William Fisher, Jr., a man of great rectitude and solidity of character, died in 1843. The ill health of Mr. Ellis Fisher, following the loss of his brother, made the charge of the business too heavy for Mr. Fisher, Sr., and in 1855 he made over his interest in the whole establishment and went south for a season. The breaking out of the rebellion made this sojourn much longer than was intended, even until after the return of peace. The remainder of his life was mainly passed with his daughter, Mrs. Lowell Holbrook, at Thompson village, where he died in serene old age, with remarkable preservation of mind and faculties, in October, 1878. The family had long passed from the home they had created, but their impress and influence still survive in the pleasant valley.

January 1st, 1856, Messrs. David Goddard and Jeremiah Pritchard, of Boston, assumed administration of Fisherville factory, and carried on the business successfully for five years. Mr. Charles Albro, of Taunton, then succeeded to part of the interest, but only retained it a short period. March 31st, 1864, Messrs. Grosvenor & Briggs purchased the whole Fisherville property from Pritchard & Albro, Mr. Grosvenor becoming the owner of three-fourths and Mr. Briggs of one-fourth. The sons of Mr. Grosvenor, William Grosvenor, Jr., and James B. M. Grosvenor now purchased each one-sixteenth of Mr. Briggs' interest. Four years later, in 1868, these young men received

shares in the Masonville Company and it was then that the two companies were consolidated and the present Grosvenor-Dale Company instituted. The ownership had passed in both companies from the original founders into the hands of the Messrs. Grosvenor mainly, and it was fitting, as well as a matter of great convenience and almost necessity, that these several villages and interests should be ranged under the name of the standing proprietors. Masonville, with its factories and village, was therefore appropriately re-christened Grosvenor Dale, and Fisherville replaced by North Grosvenor Dale. Much additional territory was purchased by the new company, including a water privilege as valuable and capable of affording as much power as either of those previously utilized, so that their land extended from Wilsonville to Mechanicsville. An advance along the whole line was immediately ordered. To provide for a greater head and more permanent supply of water, a new dam and reservoir were to be constructed. These works were accomplished by great outlay of money and labor in the most substantial and thorough manner.

Two dams were built at North Grosvenor Dale, each a hundred feet in length—the second built at an angle with the first, designed to relieve the extreme pressure in time of freshets—which were models of strength and mechanical adaptation. They were raised eleven feet, six inches above the previous Fisherville dam. The level of the railroad at this point being nearly parallel with the old dam, it was necessary to construct a dyke or embankment of stone and gravel about half a mile in length above the dam, which was done in the most substantial manner at very heavy expenditure. A capacious and beautiful reservoir was thus formed, extending up to the dam of the Wilsonville privilege. At the same time preparations were going on for building the great mill at North Grosvenor Dale. Another dyke was constructed leading to the site of the new building, half a mile long, a hundred feet wide at the bottom and twenty at the top, which from the height of the dam and the conformation of the land, was a work of great difficulty, requiring much engineering skill and a vast amount of labor.

All these works, together with the new building, were completed in 1872. This stately and beautiful structure is 464 feet long, 73 feet wide, with four stories and an attic; also an ell

128 by 67 feet, and a continuation of the same, 157 by 50 feet, with separate buildings for steam engine, boiler and gas works. The capacity of the whole building is 65,000 spindles. The power is furnished by three Jevvel wheels of 270 horse power each. There is also a Corliss steam engine of 450 horse power to be used at low stages of water. The machinery was of the most improved make, embracing the latest improvements. In respect of beauty, solidity, convenience and adaptation to the purpose for which it is designed, this North Grosvenor Dale mill is not surpassed by any in the country. To furnish homes for the large number of workmen many new houses were requisite, all of which were built by the company with the same good taste and liberal and judicious expenditure. The old Fisherville stone mill, with renovated machinery, is also operated.

The Grosvenor Dale Company now operates more machinery than any cotton manufacturing company in the state, and carries out the design of the original founders in furnishing as desirable a grade of goods as can be found in the market. In 1883, Mr. Briggs sold his interest to the Grosvenors, having been compelled by ill health to relinquish his position. Mr. William Grosvenor, Sr., head of the firm and so prominently connected with all its interests, died in 1888, leaving the great manufacturing establishment in the hands of his sons, William and James B. M. Grosvenor. These gentlemen have developed marked capacity for business, and their careful training, experience and sagacity, guarantee the successful prosecution of the trusts committed to their hands. Mrs. Rosa A. Grosvenor preceded her husband a few years, a lady of rare excellence, whose name will be ever associated with the building up and growth of this great manufacturing interest.

The changes wrought in the last fifteen years have been indeed marvelous. Former residents familiar with the old-time Masonville and Fisherville, as they see the stately factory buildings, the places of business, the array of dwelling houses, the new streets, the school houses, the Catholic and Swedish houses of worship, as they see the throngs of foreigners crowding the streets of a Saturday night, and hear a Babel of alien tongues, may well fancy themselves in a foreign land. Of the twelve hundred and fifty operatives less than two hundred are of New England origin; about seven hundred and fifty are French Canadians, and the remainder are Irish and Swedes. Alien in

religion and character, as well as in blood and tongue, the Canadians were at first slow to assimilate with their surroundings, but within a few years a great change is perceptible, and a majority now prefer to remain in New England and become permanent citizens, as well as those of other nationalities. In all that tends to the physical and moral well-being of the workmen and their families, and to the up-building and prosperity of the two villages, the Grosvenor Dale Company manifests a wise and liberal interest. The present resident manager is Mr. Frank M. Messenger, of Cheshire county, New Hampshire.

Increase in trade and business inevitably follows increase of population. Many New England families have been drawn into the villages to help supply the needs of this army of workmen. North Grosvenor Dale has been particularly favored, having established three dry-goods or variety stores, one grain store, one hardware store, three markets, one carriage manufactory. One of these stores is carried on by a life-long resident, Mr. J. Nichols Upham, the first child born in Fisherville, whose father, Mr. Ransom Upham, helped lay the foundations of factory and village. Others are kept by Messrs. John Elliott, B. S. Thompson, Simon S. Parkhurst, Henry Paradis. The Grosvenor Dale store is carried on by Mr. Thomas Hutchinson. The carriage manufactory of Messrs. Arad U. and George E. Elliott is a very important industry, employing a number of workmen, and bringing into the village descendants of one of the substantial old settlers of the town. The partnership was formed in 1875; a blacksmith's shop, store house and carriage house were soon erected. Wagons are built to order, and ordinary job work carried on. Messrs. A. U. and G. E. Elliott have served the town as representatives and selectmen and in other capacities. Another old Thompson family is represented by Mr. Oscar Tourtelotte, first selectman, who has been very prominent in school and public affairs. Nathan Rawson, who died a few years since, had served the town as justice and in various other capacities, and was a much respected and influential resident of North Grosvenor Dale. In the recent death of Constable William Cummings, so popular and prominent in civil and military affairs, Grosvenor Dale has met with a heavy loss.

The new elements in the manufacturing center bring new developments in church and school. In January, 1888, 876 children of school age were reported in the two Grosvenor Dale

districts. A modern convenient school house was built in Grosvenor Dale in 1878. North Grosvenor Dale suffered much for lack of suitable accommodations, and now rejoices in a most eligible modern school house, with four ample rooms and every needful convenience, on a slightly eminence removed from the bustle of the village, built at a cost of \$7,835, by a tax upon the district, and opened for use in the autumn of 1888.

The first Catholics in the two villages attended service in the churches of Webster and Putnam. The first minister to visit and look after them was Reverend Father Duffy, of Pascoag, R. I. When Putnam parish was formed in 1866, Thompson was constituted an out-mission. Reverend Father Vygen then assumed charge and held services in the Masonville chapel, and later in a hall. In 1872 Father Vygen purchased twelve acres of land between the Grosvenor Dales, and immediately commenced the erection of St. Joseph's church, a gothic wooden structure, costing \$10,000. This church was solemnly dedicated by Right Reverend F. P. McFarland, September 29th, 1872; the sermon on the occasion was delivered by Reverend H. Martial, assistant pastor of Putnam. The following January a parish was formed, embracing the whole town excepting Mechanicsville, West Thompson and Quadic, under the name of St. Joseph's Catholic Society, including about nine hundred worshippers. Father Martial was appointed its pastor; lay trustees, Patrick Kelley and Louis P. Lamoureux. A pastoral residence was completed the same year. In 1874 the cemetery was laid out and was blessed by Very Reverend James Hughes, V. G., administrator of the diocese, June 15th. In 1880 the parish was made to embrace the whole town, and Reverend A. J. Haggerty sent as assistant to Father Martial. During this year a church edifice was erected at West Thompson and dedicated by Right Reverend L. S. McMahon.

Father Flanagan took charge of the parish after Father Martial's decease, assisted by Reverend J. H. Fitzmaurice. Other assistants in the field were Reverends A. J. Haggerty, T. R. Sweeney, J. P. Connelly, I. W. Fones, R. F. Moore, W. E. Flanagan. Reverend Thomas Cooney succeeded to the pastorate at Grosvenor Dale, February 14th, 1883, and soon instituted mission work at New Boston and Quinebaug. Land for a church edifice was given by Eben S. Stevens, of Quinebaug, and \$300. Its architect and builder was L. P. Lamoureux; cost, \$3,000.

This third Catholic church in Thompson, St. Stephens, was dedicated by Right Reverend L. S. McMahon, March 30th, 1884. February 2d, 1886, Mechanicsville and vicinity was constituted a distinct parish, with Pomfret as an out mission, Reverend W. E. Flanagan, pastor. A pastoral residence was built the following year, at a cost of \$3,000. Father Cooney continues in charge at Grosvenor Dale. The Catholic population of the town numbers some 2,800. Since the erection of St. Joseph's parish, there have been 1,600 baptisms, 380 marriages, 630 deaths. The school, established with much labor and personal sacrifice, is very flourishing. A substantial, three-story building, containing convent, school and hall, was erected in 1881, at a cost of \$12,000; architect and builder, Louis P. Lamoureux. This building was placed under the charge of "the Sisters of Holy Cross," for a free Catholic school; was opened January 2d, 1882, with an attendance of three hundred children. In addition to the branches taught in the common schools of the state, the children receive a thorough religious training, together with an elementary course in the French language. Present number of pupils, 400; average attendance, 360.

Next to the French the Swedes are gaining in numbers and readily assimilate with their new surroundings. The Swedish church in Grosvenor Dale numbers 320 communicants; a house of worship was erected in 1884; their first pastor was Reverend Ludwig Holmes, a man much beloved by his people and respected by all. Reverend G. E. Fosberg, now a student, has been called to the Swedish pastorate.

The rival company that cast such disdainful eyes and name upon the future Grosvenor Dale, has a very different record. As the "Connecticut Manufacturing Company," securing a most eligible privilege upon the Quinebaug and Boston turnpike, and very near the junction of the Boston and Providence turnpikes, it may have thought its prospects of success and continuance far more favorable. John and Jonathan Nichols, Jr., Daniel Dwight, William Dwight, Jr., Benjamin Arnold and Samuel Perrin, organized as a manufacturing company in 1811. A substantial brick building was soon erected and made ready for work; substantial workmen came with their families, the new Methodist meeting house and the prevalence of the Methodist element, drawing Methodists to this church center. Shubael Cady and Joseph Buck were among these Methodist brethren, caring for

the souls of the children as well as the work that could be gotten out of them. The hard times of 1815-18 told heavily upon Brick Factory, and the death of some of the founders led to entire reconstruction. In 1821, the interest was sold to William Reed, Esq., a native of Attleborough, Mass., one of the constituent members of the Danielsonville Manufacturing Company of Killingly, and for many years its resident manager. Walter Paine, of Providence, joined with him the following year and continued a partner till 1829, when Mr. Reed purchased the whole establishment. George Larned, 2d, who had married the only daughter of Esquire Reed, carried on the store.

Under this administration the Brick Factory pursued its way prosperously for many years. The high character of the proprietors and their excellent wives gave tone to the village. The temperance movement found willing advocates and a deep religious spirit pervaded the community. One of its most esteemed citizens, Mr. Faxon Nichols, served as first postmaster. Reverend Hezekiah Ramsdell, an early resident, did good service in village and town by his interest in public education, and also in the culture of flowers and choice fruit. Brick Factory, or Reedville, or West Thompson Village, as it was variously called, was particularly flourishing just after the opening of the Norwich & Worcester railroad, when residents of the future Putnam attended church at its meeting house and received their mail matter at its post office. Prosperity was checked by the burning of the factory in 1849, and as Esquire Reed was now advanced in years, he sold the manufacturing privilege to his son, Mr. Ezra C. Reed, of New Haven, Conn., who retained it but a few years, and after needful repairs and refitting conveyed the whole interest to Messrs. Henry Sharpe and Walker. Esquire Reed and his estimable wife passed their declining years with their son in New Haven, living to extreme old age.

West Thompson village has made little or no advance since the latter change. Various attempts have been made to revive the former interest or develop new industries. In 1881 Mr. Oscar F. Chase, who had succeeded Sharpe and Walker in ownership, sold his interest to Messrs. Sayles and Washburn, of Mechanicsville, who have reconstructed the privilege and changed the course of the Quinebaug. The village remains as ever, a pleasant place of residence, the home of substantial families, and doubtless in time will be revived and farther built up by the thriving interest on its borders.

Mechanicsville dates back to 1827, when a privilege upon the French river, just above its junction with the Quinebaug, was secured by a number of enterprising men, viz., Erastus Buck, Augustus Howe, Thomas and James Dike, Jude Sabin, John Chollar, Jacob Leavens and James Cunningham, who associated together as "The Mechanics' Company" for the manufacture of woolen goods, and put up a three-story wooden mill, a saw mill and an eight-tenement block for operatives. All members of the company were expected to help carry forward the work personally. Mr. Howe served as agent; the Messrs. Dike and Cunningham carried on the machine shop; Mr. Buck drove the mules; and Mr. Leavens superintended the weavers. A workshop bought with the land was transformed into a school house. For some unassigned reason, perhaps because one level head is a better motor than half a dozen, the co-operative experiment failed of success, and in about three years the company dissolved, and in 1835 the whole property was sold at auction to William Rhodes and Thomas Truesdell, who run the mill intermittently till it was purchased by Mr. Smith Wilkinson in 1838. For five years it struggled on under different lessees, till destroyed by fire in 1843.

In 1858 Messrs. Sabin and Harris Sayles and Mowry Ross made arrangements with Mr. Edmond Wilkinson, under which they built a small brick mill and engaged in the manufacture of fancy cassimere. In 1865 Messrs. Thomas D. Sayles and Warren Harris became partners with the Messrs. Sayles in the Mechanicsville Company, purchasing the previous establishment and adjacent territory. A new and beautiful brick building was speedily erected, 250 by 42 feet, four stories high, and fitted up with the best machinery and every modern appointment. A large number of operatives were straightway imported, new houses built, and great improvements made in the village. The dingy old workshop which had done duty for a school room was replaced by a neat brick building. Since the assumption of Mechanicsville by the present proprietors, Messrs. Thomas D. Sayles and B. S. Washburn, in 1879, very great changes have been wrought. Purchasing the West Thompson privilege, the Ellis farm, and other needful territory, the firm entered upon a work of demolition and reconstruction, costing some years of labor and half a million of money. A new and very superior dam was built, the channel of the Quinebaug deep-

ened and in some places turned, roads straightened and new ones constructed, hills leveled and valleys filled up, resulting in an entire transformation. The drive to West Thompson over the smooth, level road, with its iron bridges, with the sparkling blue lake on one side, and the picturesque verdant park, reclaimed from marsh land, on the other, is indeed "a thing of beauty" and a perpetual joy. The same good taste has transformed and beautified the village. The factory building, with its green lawn in front, occupies one of the finest locations in New England, and everything about premises and village are in perfect keeping, emblematic, it is said, of the unusual harmony in the relations between employers and employed. The present number of operatives is three hundred and fifty—Canadian French, German, Irish, Swede. A Catholic house of worship was built in 1880—"The Church of the Sacred Heart"—Mr. Thomas D. Sayles giving land and \$500 for that purpose.

A new iron bridge now spans the Quinebaug near West Thompson station. The old Thompson burying ground, opened soon after 1720, is now in excellent condition. An ample addition on the north, provided by Mr. George H. Nichols, precludes the anticipated need of a modern cemetery. Descendants of Captain Jonathan Nichols, viz., Elder John Nichols, Esquire Jonathan Nichols, Messrs Faxon and Captain George Nichols, have been very prominent in town, filling many public offices with credit and usefulness. The latter is now represented by his sons, Jerome and George H. Nichols, who also serve the town in many public capacities. A third son, the late lamented Lieutenant Colonel Munroe Nichols, gave a life of much promise to the service of his country in the late war. The family of Mr. James Cunningham, one of the original proprietors of Mechanics' Factory, still reside in the vicinity. The venerable Mr. Winthrop H. Ballard and his son, Mr. Stephen Ballard, are respected residents.

The Five Mile or Assawaga river, in the east of the town, has propelled but one small factory in Thompson, though helping run several larger establishments in towns below. Grist and saw mills have been kept at work since the first settlement of the town. In 1813 a number of gentlemen from Providence, viz., Emor Angell, Nehemiah Knight, Thomas Burgess, John Mackie, associated with Stephen Matthewson, of Johnston, R. I., and Josiah Sessions and Joseph Waterman, of Thompson, as the

Quadic Manufacturing Company, and bought land and water privilege in the little hamlet of Quadic, of a well-known resident, Deacon Jonathan Converse. They soon erected a small building and engaged in the manufacture of woolen hats. The close of the war brought untimely end to this enterprise, which was soon replaced by the inevitable cotton factory, set in motion by Mr. John Mason and a new company. A larger factory was now built, and a number of dwelling houses between 1820-'22.

In 1822 Mr. Mason, for \$1,900 sold "one-third interest in the Quadic Manufacturing Company, set off as one-half of the late hat manufactory," to Messrs. Sessions and Waterman, who for a number of years continued in charge, manufacturing "Quadic sheeting." Calvin Randall and Stephen B. Winsor had also rights in the mill. Nelson S. Eddy purchased the establishment in 1835, and resided a number of years in the village, employing from fifty to seventy-five men, women and children. Quadic village, with its factory, daily stage-coach passing through it, and constant teaming to and from Providence, was then a brisk little settlement, its convenient store in pre-temperance days furnishing spirituous refreshment to many a weary traveller. After the decease of Mr. Eddy the factory was leased for a time to Card & Stone. In 1848 Mr. Lemuel K. Blackmar assumed the charge of the saw and grist mills, and a little later fitted up the old "red hat factory," for the manufacture of twine. Mr. David Warner, who purchased rights of the children of Mr. Eddy, also carried on twine manufacture. The privilege of deepening the channel of the Assawaga, and constructing a reservoir for supplying Dayville and Attawagan factories with water, was obtained by the Messrs. Sayles and Blackstone, resulting in the formation of a full, deep lake, setting backward to near the north bound of the town. Mowry Ross, a veteran mill owner, purchased the Quadic privilege in 1873. His sons, Mowry and Isaac Ross, built a tasteful new mill on the south side of the road, which fell into possession of Mr. A. W. Thurber, of Putnam. Its destruction by fire has apparently put an end to Quadic cotton manufacture. The old saw and grist mills also rest from their labors. A few of the former residents still linger in the picturesque little village. Sabbath schools have been kept up for many years in the Quadic school house, by earnest Baptist brethren, viz., Deacons Stephen Crosby and Welcome Bates, Mr. Newton Ballard and others.

When Brandy hill first assumed its inspiring name is beyond the memory of descendants of the oldest inhabitant. Tradition refers it to the bursting of a brandy hogshead upon the hill, and it may be inferred that the great outflow of liquor at Starr's tavern during the days of turnpike opening, helped to make it permanent. Succeeding stage taverns were famous for the concoction of flip, the poker being kept red hot in the glowing coals for that purpose from morn till eve. Before the much-needed temperance reform it was the custom of honored fathers of Thompson hill to take their wives and daughters, after a specially hard day's work at house cleaning or the like, to this famous tavern, to be cheered if not inebriated by foaming flip. Brandy hill at that date boasted a special military company and trainings, with a flourishing store, and at one time secured a vote to hold town meetings part of the time at the Baptist meeting house. It was also famous for singing schools and occasional balls. A stately row of poplars was set out about 1800 by Captain Isaac Davis. The meeting house and taverns were said to have built up Brandy hill village, and with the decay of the latter the village declined. It has furnished a pleasant home for many residents, particularly the descendants of the faithful town clerk, Mr. Nathaniel Mills, whose sons, Nathaniel, Colonel Isaac, Ashley and Corbin Mills, have had homes in the village or in its vicinity. The old church still holds its own as has been noticed elsewhere, and the venerable row of poplars stands as a familiar land-mark.

The northeast part of the town was sparsely settled for many years, the descendants of Nathaniel Jacobs and Israel Joslin occupying many of its farms and homesteads. Turnpike travel increased the number of residents, and the "Jacobs District" became quite populous. The Methodist church and projected railroad helped to centralize this population, but it was not till the Boston & Erie railroad was fairly opened that East Thompson village entered upon existence. Its importance was increased by the junction with the Southbridge Branch. A number of families connected in various ways with the railroad interest now occupy the village. Shoe manufacture was carried on for a time by the Reverend Isaac Sherman, a useful and respected citizen. The store established by him is now conducted by Mr. George H. Wilber, the present postmaster. A store is also kept by R. J. Steins. The family which gave its name to

this district is much less numerous than in former years—several branches failing from extinction or emigration. One of its oldest representatives, Mr. Joseph D. Jacobs, has recently removed from a family homestead to Thompson hill. Two of his seven sons gave their lives to their country; the survivors are engaged in business in various parts of the land,

The present Wilsonville occupies the site of the "Child's Mills" of former generations. Elijah Converse came into possession about 1796, and conveyed them to his son, Mr. Riel Converse, who ran grist and saw mills. In 1822 he sold mills and privilege, with nine acres of land, to Mr. Zirah Preston, for \$2,700. Mr. Preston in the following year sold land to Mr. Laban T. Wilson, with privilege to run a wheel for the purpose of manufacturing woolen goods. Mr. Wilson soon put up and set in motion a small establishment, engaging in the manufacture of satinet. In 1824 he leased the grist and saw mills, and gave his name to the growing village. After ten years of doubtful success, he gave place to a succession of owners—John Farnam, Wheeler Barrett, Riel Converse, Archelaus Upham, the Messrs. Capron, E. A. Wheelock, Oscar Chase, who carried on the mills in intermittent fashion with varying success till the inevitable fire consumed the old building. The present proprietor, Mr. Reegan, has built a small mill and engaged in woolen manufacture. Many of the residents of this village are descended from old families. Mr. Diah Upham, who has filled many town offices, carried on mercantile business for fifteen years. Mr. Samuel Adams has kept the Wilsonville store for twenty years. The Wilsonville burying ground shows that many residents of this vicinity lived to advanced age. Mr. Riel Converse exceeded ninety-two years. Mrs. Nathaniel (Whitford) Child, who died at Wilsonville, May 21st, 1877, aged one hundred years and thirty-six days, attained the greatest age of any Thompson woman on record. Her son, Hon. Marcus Child, a very respectable citizen, twice representing the town at the legislature, died suddenly within a few years.

New Boston site was occupied at a very early date. Among its old time celebrities were Mr. Samuel Morris and Mr. William Chandler, the latter a son of Hon. John Chandler of Woodstock, whose wife, Jemima Bradbury, boasted the bluest blood in Massachusetts. Their large house, near the west line of the town, was for half a century the most aristocratic establishment in the

vicinity, kept up in true colonial style, with negro and Indian servants, stately furniture, books and pictures. Captain Chandler was, like his father, a skillful surveyor, and was the only man in town bold enough to ask to have a road laid out to accommodate his business, as well as "travel to Thompson meeting house."

The Morris-Holbrook farm fell finally into the hands of Captain Goodell, a noted military man, whose wife was a daughter of John Holbrook. Residents in this vicinity who had purchased old Dudley land were involved in the famous lawsuit brought by Paul Dudley for the recovery of these farms, on the ground that, as entailed property, the sale was unlawful. The final trial of this case before the supreme court at Washington was the great event of the generation, with Daniel Webster pleading for the defendants, and the distinguished orator, William Pinkney, stricken with fatal disease while arguing against them.

The northwest corner of Thompson received a new impulse from the opening of the Providence & Southbridge turnpike, with its travel and taverns. The Barnes and Chaffee tavern stands became noted places of resort. The old Morris farm on the Quinebaug was now held mainly by heirs of John Holbrook, who purchased it from Benjamin Wilkinson. His son, Thomas, gave the valley the now familiar name, New Boston. The widow of Thomas Holbrook married for her second husband in 1802, Colonel Joseph Chapin, whose name is still preserved in the neighborhood. His sisters, married to Ephraim and Sylvanus Houghton and Captain Amos Goodell, also occupied Morris homesteads. Jason Phipps bought land of Benjamin Morris as early as 1760. Other settlers in the vicinity were: William Copeland, Thomas Ormsbee, William Jordan, who, with other substantial families, made a pleasant neighborly society.

Ebenezer Phelps of Sutton, bought land and water privilege of the Houghtons in 1804, and set up saw and grist mills. Part of this privilege was soon made over to Rufus Coburn and Alpheus Corbin, who introduced a fulling mill and carding machine. The present "Phelps House" was completed in 1808. William Jordan and William Lamson also bought land of Phelps and Houghton, building substantial houses in the growing village. A burial lot for the use of the neighborhood was given by Mrs. Chapin, and enclosed and made ready for occupation by the

adjacent residents. The first interment was that of Lucy Robbins, in 1813.

The clothiery works were purchased by John Barber in 1815, who built the house now owned by Mr. William Copeland. He was succeeded for a short interval by Otis Nichols. Mr. Parley Jordan engaged in the manufacture of axes and other edged tools in 1821. William Jordan, Sr., built a fine new tavern house on the street in 1828, with a large hall, which was opened by a ball and appropriate exercises. Manufacturing enterprise had now sought out New Boston. Edward Howard, an Englishman, secured water privilege and surrounding land in 1829, and soon erected a small brick mill for the manufacture of satinets. Marrying a resident, Miss Lucy Houghton, he expected to spend his life in this pleasant resting place, but adverse fate pursued him, and he was lost at sea on his voyage homeward from England. His widow survived him but a few months. A "New Boston Manufacturing Company" essayed to carry on the mill, but met various misadventures. Company after company was formed, began work, and made assignments. It was said that the Devil, alert to seize the opportunity, "had been let into the wheel-pit" at the beginning of the enterprise, and that was the cause of all the calamities.

A store was kept up and some shoemaking and minor business essayed. Mr. Parley Jordan's trip-hammer did good service for many years. Messrs. William Billings and Upham came into possession of the factory in 1853, and remained in charge twelve years. A Social Circle and Library were established during this period, through the agency of Mrs. Billings and Mrs. Upham. Still greater improvements have been effected during the administration of the present proprietors—the Messrs. Murdock. They found mill and tenement buildings greatly dilapidated, morality at a low ebb, rum sold at several places. The process of renovation was slow and difficult. Flood and fire made havoc with the ancient dam and factory buildings, but apparently drove out the original enemy, and with new dam and buildings prosperity dawned upon the New Boston Manufacturing Company. Continued additions have been made and new machinery introduced. About eighty hands are now employed, half of them Americans. In thrift and morality there have been great advances, and New Boston now compares favorably with other manufacturing villages. Religious services are held

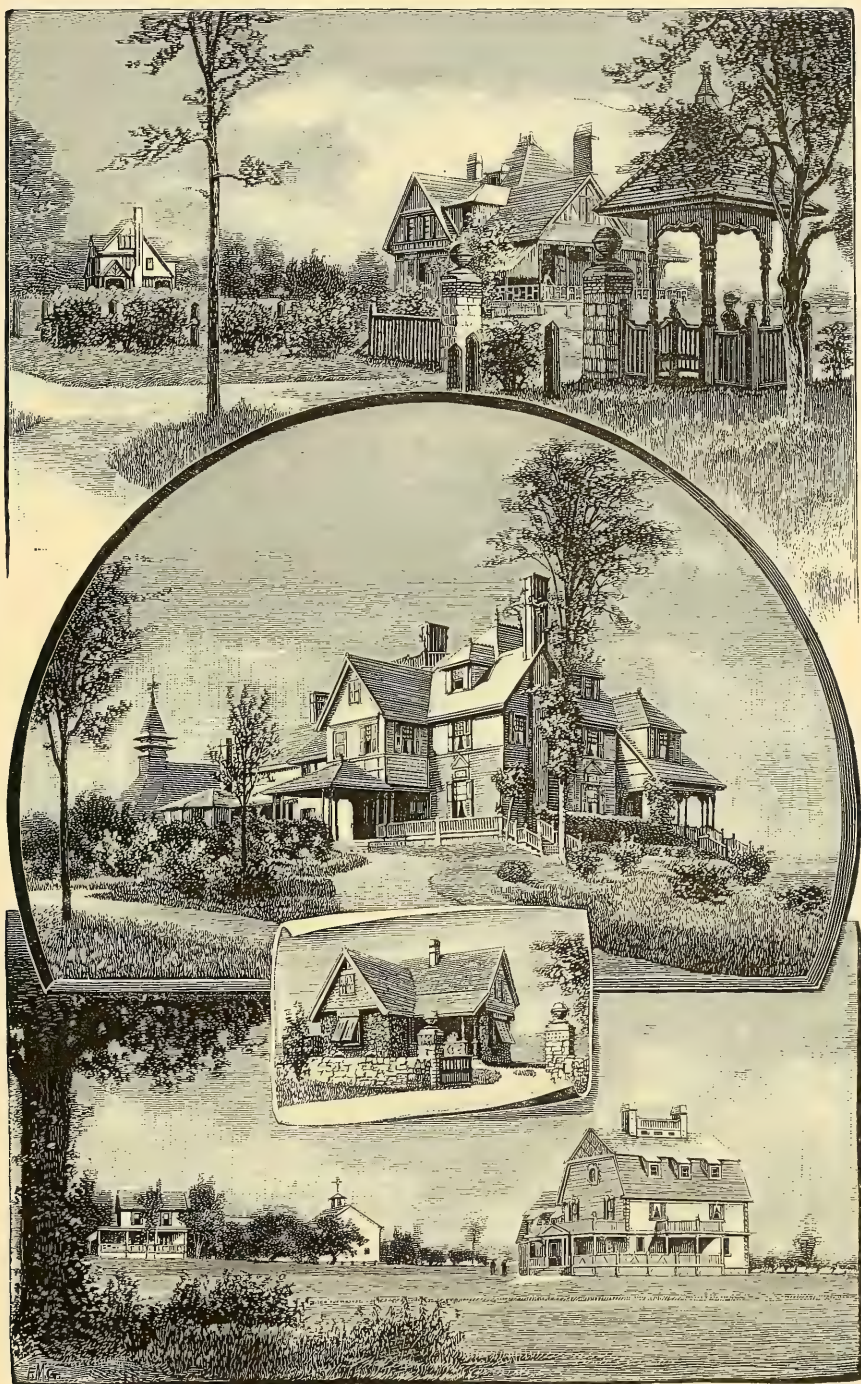
statedly in the hall, and the comfort and well-being of the operatives made a special care. The energy and public spirit of the Messrs. Murdock and their assistant, Mr. Ira N. Bates, have added much to the standing and influence of this section of the town. Mr. Bates has served as selectman and town representative. The spirit of improvement has permeated the village. The abundance of flowers and neat appearance of the houses have long been remarked. The "Ladies' Union Circle," established in 1855, has aided much in promoting good feeling and social intercourse, and its library has proved an incalculable benefit. Mr. Jerome Jordan served first as librarian; Miss Jane Ormsbee succeeded, but since 1857 Miss Mary P. Jordan has administered the offices of librarian, secretary and treasurer with much fidelity and acceptance. Some seven hundred volumes are now included in the library.

New Boston village is particularly noted for its cordial hospitality and enjoyable social entertainments, its ancient and modern elements most happily uniting on such occasions. The institution of a branch railroad in place of the former turnpike is a great convenience, and a new Quinebaug village is growing up around the station. While some of the early New Boston families are still represented, others have passed away. Mr. Edward Aldrich, the last representative of the several sons of Mr. Esek Aldrich, died some years since. An eccentric resident, stranded in New Boston after the shipwreck of Dorr's experiment in Rhode Island—Aaron White, Esq.—died in 1886. Fuller details of his character and career will be found in another section. The late Jesse Ormsbee and Harvey Lamson, Esquires, Messrs. William and Parley Jordan will long be remembered as among the honored citizens of the town.

Nothing worthy of the name of village existed in Thompson during the last century. Four or five houses and a blacksmith shop had been built upon Thompson hill, in the vicinity of the meeting house; the meeting house, as in many hill towns, building up a village instead of the village building the meeting house. But when it was found that two lines of turnpike were to intersect upon the hill, new life sprang up. The Joseph Watson house, Wickham's store and Keith's tavern were built before 1800, and soon after that date several houses were erected, especially upon the east side of the Providence turnpike. Building was, however, impeded by the scarcity of building lots, the north

part of the hill being included in the Watson estate, which was not thrown into market till after the death of Widow Samuel Watson in 1813. The north end of the hill was then purchased by George Larned, Esq., and laid out in building lots, he himself occupying the Watson house (now Judge Rawson's) as a dwelling house and law office. On the opposite site a house was speedily built by Hezekiah Olney. Mr. Noadiah Comins built the house adjoining southward, and Doctor James Webb a third house (now occupied by Mrs. Tallman). The site below was soon filled by the old meeting house transformed into a town house, and the nucleus of the present tavern was put up on the corner by Stephen E. Tefft. Doctor Webb left town before completing his house, and was followed by Doctor Horatio Holbrook, who built on the north side of the street, adjoining Esquire Larned's.

A handsome brick house on the corner had been previously built by John Nichols, and a large house with brick ends was built on another corner northward by Noadiah Russel, Esq. Captain Joel Taylor built several houses east of the tavern, on the Providence turnpike, the first of which was long occupied by Obadiah Stone. A small house nearly opposite was put together by Simon Davis, Esq. All this building, together with the teaming and stage coaches, made the hill very lively. Many of the new residents engaged in business. Mr. Olney manufactured hats; Mr. Comins, harness; Mr. Stone, shoes; Nichols and Tefft carried on various stores; Esquire Davis practiced law; Mr. Theodore Dwight made a most acceptable landlord in the new turnpike tavern; Mr. Rufus Coburn entered upon trade. Rum was sold without restriction in all the stores and taverns. A house-warming frolic, in which all these business men and leading citizens indulged in great excesses, called out Mr. Dow's first temperance sermon. Fixing his eye upon the offenders with most scathing rebuke, he thundered out the scriptural queries—"Who hath woe? Who hath sorrow? Who hath contentions? Who hath babblings? Who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine." But the fact that the next day the pastor himself took a glass of wine at the house of a parishioner marred the practical effect of the sermon. All classes were greatly benefitted by the rise of the temperance reform, banishing liquor from common household use, social entertainments and the better class of stores.



"HOWARD" COTTAGE.

"HARRY" COTTAGE.

"RATHLIN"—RESIDENCE OF GEORGE LOTHROP BRADLEY, POMFRET CENTRE, CONN.

"STILLEBEN."

"RATHLIN" LODGE.

"HOPE" COTTAGE.

The rapid expansion of business and manufactures after the close of the first half century of the republic brought a special "boom" to Thompson hill. Residents of neighboring factories sought supplies of needful articles and luxuries at its well-filled stores, now conducted by Messrs. Almy & Crosby and Erastus Knight. Mr. Edward Shaw, of Providence, opened a watch-maker's and jeweler's store in 1830, a great novelty and attraction, customers coming miles from every direction to have their watches regulated and buy glittering ornaments. Mr. Hezekiah Olney, now high sheriff of Windham county, built a brick block between the tavern and town house, and opened a fashionable "New York hat and cap store." Horatio Paine engaged in the manufacture of boots. The tailors' shops conducted by Albert E. Whipple and James O. Mills were largely patronized, as nothing in the line of ready-made clothing could then be procured. Mrs. C. C. Dow supplied a large constituency with tasteful and fashionable millinery. Messrs. Andrew B. Baldwin, James Hutchins, Danforth Kinney and Walter Bates opened shops for carriages and furniture making. All these business enterprises found convenient financial accommodation in the Thompson Bank, incorporated in 1833. The year preceding Thompson had the enterprise to purchase a jaunty little fire engine, run by an efficient company. Among other innovations, the newspaper came to Thompson hill. George Roberts, publisher at a later day of the first cheap daily paper in Boston, and the originator of the famous "Mammoth Newspaper," entered upon his journalistic career as the editor of a dainty little semi-weekly called *The Thompson Transcript*. This was soon succeeded by a *Weekly Bulletin*, but neither was able to support existence. They were followed by *The Windham County Gazette*, published by another newspaper celebrity, the J. P. Chapman who was ordered "to crow" in the Tippecanoe campaign. His newspaper lingered for several years, but collapsed in 1837 with many kindred enterprises.

One of Thompson's chief notabilities in these booming years was "the Stiles Tavern," claiming that more stage passengers dined there every day than at any other house in New England. Its proprietor, Captain Vernon Stiles, was the very *beau ideal* of a landlord—big, hearty, jolly. More than that, he was a public spirited citizen, a graceful speaker and an adroit politician. His bar room was the headquarters of the democratic party, and his

spacious hall the scene of many a festive entertainment. Thompson's peculiar matrimonial facilities had then been recognized, cornering as it did upon two states where a two or three weeks' publishment of intention was required before the marriage ceremony, while Connecticut let them off with one brief pulpit notice. It became very much the fashion for affianced pairs in these states to drive to Thompson on a Sunday morn, and there be united at Stiles's tavern. For a time the ministers were called in to perform the ceremony at intermission of divine service, but the calls became so frequent, and the consequent Sabbath breaking so alarming, that they resigned the office to Captain Stiles, as justice, who tied the nuptial knot with a grace and sympathy that charmed all participants. Scarce a Sabbath passed without bringing wedding parties to partake of the frosted loaf always made ready for them, and Thompson became widely known as the "Gretna Green of New England," run-a-ways on several occasions improving its facilities. Near the tavern, in the town house building, back of Mr. Shaw's shop, Esquire Davis kept the post office, the only one in town, and also a museum of curiosities and Indian relics, exciting much juvenile interest.

A very famous debating society was organized in 1833, with Simon Davis, Esq., president, Joseph B. Gay, vice-president, George Roberts, secretary, and a large number of members, where all the vital questions of the day were earnestly debated, and presumably settled. The lawyers, young and old, Doctors Holbrook and Bowen, Captain Stiles, schoolmasters from far and near, inquiring mechanics and active business men, entered upon this arena, and crossed swords in many a fiery conflict. Several houses were built during this period, but the hill, as depicted by Barber in his "Historical Collections" of 1836, had but a bare aspect. The trees set out by Judge John Nichols in the little "Heater Piece," and the row of trees near the Watson house, were its only shade. The old row of poplars at the south end of the village was already vanishing. Blindless and bare, the meeting house stood on the rough common, cut up by numerous wagon roads, and on the pointed apex westward a row of buildings stretched out—blacksmith's shop, house, barn, and at the extreme end a marble shop or gravestone manufactory, which in a few years gave place to a very aggressive grog shop, greatly quickening the demand for the former article.

During the progress of the Washingtonian temperance movement, party spirit ran very high. John Hawkins, the leader among reformed inebriates, made an early visit to Thompson hill, speaking night after night to crowded audiences in the Congregational meeting house, and persuading many common drunkards and moderate drinkers to sign the pledge and range themselves on the side of temperance. His success roused a very bitter spirit of opposition on the part of those who felt that their personal and social rights were invaded. The old tavern (late Wilks House) had become very obnoxious, its proprietor being a man utterly devoid of principle and common humanity. The death of one of his victims, turned out of doors and left to freeze in the barn, made a very deep impression on the community, and was used with most dramatic effect by Gough on the last night of a week's labor in Thompson. Having that day visited the mother of the dead man in a neighboring state, he told the story of this "prodigal son" as it fell from her lips, in the most pathetic and thrilling manner, no one in the house having a thought of any personal connection with it, until at the last he sent it home to every heart by the low, calm, overwhelming statement that this man *had died in a barn at Thompson*, after weeks' loitering about that abominable tavern. The keeper of the house was unable to stand against the overwhelming tide of public sentiment, and the house, after due purification, was made over for the use of Mr. Green's high school. Captain Stiles closed his bar and transformed his popular house into a temperance tavern.

The persecuted rum sellers were driven from tavern to cellar, and finally found refuge in the deserted stone cutter's shop at the west extremity of the common, a most eligible position, facing two streets, very near the newly erected town house, and greatly accommodating the obstinate old toppers, who made a special point of exercising their liberties upon town meeting day. Dorr's refugees, coming up from Rhode Island, found much needed aid and comfort in this convenient grogery, and bestowed upon it the expressive name of "Ponog," borrowed from a similar favorite institution at home, originally signifying "a place of fair water," but by corruption "a place of fire water." A more unmitigated nuisance than the Thompson Ponog never afflicted a respectable community. Many resorted thither from all parts of the town; young men were enticed into liquor there; hooting and yelling disturbed the neighbors by

night, and free fights after a public day were not unusual; yet, notwithstanding the efforts and eloquence of temperance workers, it continued for several years to disgrace the village.

The town house was the first building on the south side of West street. Mr. Whitman Jacobs broke ground on the north side about 1835, building the house now occupied by Doctor Knight. Other houses were built in a few years by Messrs. Erastus Knight, Edward Shaw, Danforth Kinney, Waldo Comins and Thomas E. Graves. The row of maples was set out in 1839. Houses were built a few years later on the south side by Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. William H. Mason. In the summer of 1845 a lecture was given by Professor William A. Larned in the town house, upon "Beauty, Taste and Tree Culture,"—all summed up in the modern term, "Village Improvements." Mr. William H. Chandler was much interested in this matter and aided very efficiently in carrying out Professor Larned's suggestions. Spontaneous pledges of aid were given by many present, and in the following November a day was devoted to setting out all over the village, elm, maple and other trees, under the supervision of Mr. Chandler. A still greater improvement was effected in the demolition and removal of the Ponog and all its appurtenances—house, barn and blacksmith's shop, which were bought up by adjacent residents, and the point of land leveled off and reconstructed. Ten years later the common left bare by the removal of the meeting house, was leased temporarily to Esquire Graves for fencing and cultivation, which, with the growth of the trees and other improvements, added much to the beauty of the village.

With the opening of the Norwich & Worcester railroad and the discontinuance of stage coaching, business prosperity in Thompson rapidly declined. One by one, stores and shops were closed. As the valleys increased the hills wasted. Tailoring, shoemaking and carriage making fell off from year to year. Many excellent families removed from the village. Change of laws so much reduced the number of matrimonial frequenters that Captain Stiles resigned his office and followed the westward movement. Mr. Shaw took his shop and goods to Putnam. The store so long kept up by "Almy & Crosby" was closed and croakers prophesied the decay and ultimate extinction of the once flourishing village. Even the corner tavern was closed for a season, and the ever solid bank and Mr. Knight's principal

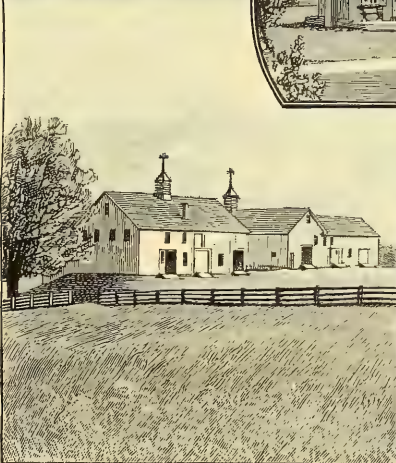
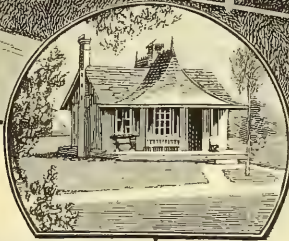
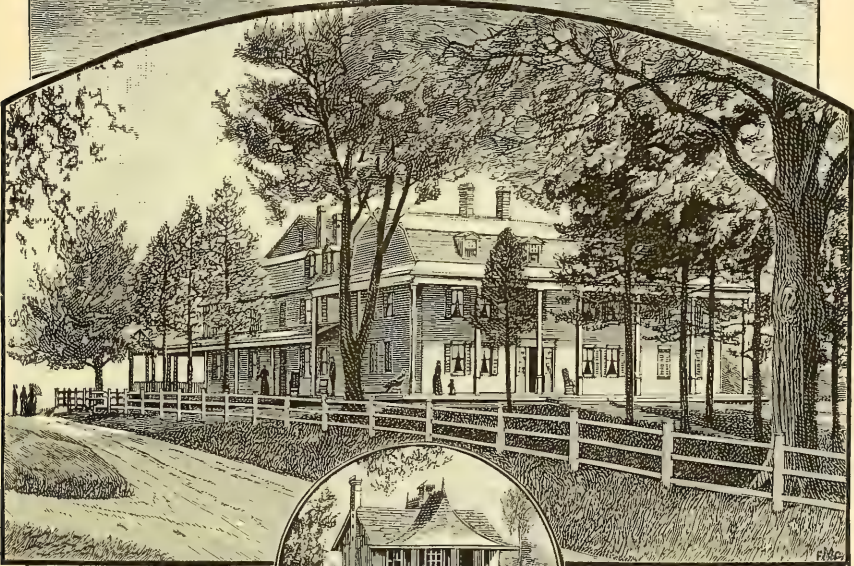
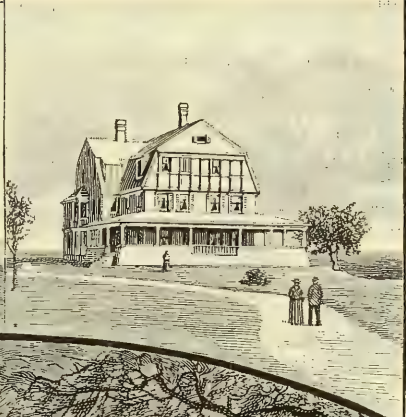
store seemed all that preserved it from stagnation. But after the lowest depth a reflex tide set in, bringing back elements of continued life and new prosperity. With the reopening of the hotel under Mr. Stephen Crosby in 1859, summer visitors came in, mostly families who had gone out from town, and relatives of residents.

Another decade passed and the "cottagers" came to stay, and these too were Thompson's own children, connected by family and social ties. Several new houses have been built and old ones transformed into picturesque villas. A Village Improvement Society was formed in 1875, which, though somewhat intermittent in character, has accomplished good results in grading and widening the streets, caring for the trees and improving sidewalks. Older residents have caught the spirit of the age, and take much pride in beautifying and improving their lawns and dwellings. Thompson residents and visitors are well accommodated with railroad privileges, the near vicinity of the New York & New England station bringing Boston, Providence, the sea shore and many resorts, within a day's compass. Business to any extent declines to return. Mr. James Kingsbury essayed shoe manufacturing for a time, but relapsed into store-keeping and care for the town interests. The removal of Mr. Charles Baldwin closed a carriage and wagon shop, dating back to nearly the beginning of the century. The only present representative of former industries is Mr. Walter Bates, whose "cabinet maker's shop" was opened by Mr. James Hutchins more than fifty years since. Yet notwithstanding the lack of business, Thompson hill is none the less a pleasant place of permanent residence, while its pure air, health giving breezes, and the picturesque drives in its vicinity, are very attractive to the summer sojourner. The Family Hotel, kept so satisfactorily for twenty-five years by the late Mr. Crosby, promises to be equally popular under its present proprietor, Landlord Chapin, who has treated the old tavern house with a new furnace and effected many improvements.

The Thompson hill of the present day has never appeared to better advantage than on Memorial Day, 1887, when for the first time the town made public provision for celebrating this occasion. Under the auspices of Major William S. Beebe (then recently removed into the Mason house), the town house was decorated in the most unique and effective manner with red,

white and blue stars, banners and streamers, and emblazoned with the names of every battle field and engagement during the civil conflict. Soldiers and war veterans in Thompson and Putnam, members of the Grand Army of the Republic, Sons of Veterans, and other bodies, were invited to participate in the festivities. The day was exceptionally fine, the village in fresh spring suit looked its best, and everything passed off in the most harmonious and delightful manner. After visiting the graves of their comrades in the different burial grounds of the town with the usual services and floral offerings, the several companies, with music and parade, marched by different roads into the village where great crowds had assembled to meet them, and then into the Congregational meeting house, which was draped with red, white and blue in simple but most effective style. The soldiers, with citizens gathered to receive them, filled the large house. A bevy of blooming girls, decked out for waitresses with white caps and aprons, and contrasting bands of dark bearded musicians, filled the choir. The services, prayer, singing, addresses, were exceedingly appropriate and inspiring. The march of the martial procession from the meeting house to the town house in the beautiful May sunshine, with the music and the white-capped girls, and the common filled with enthusiastic spectators, was one of the most picturesque and stirring scenes Thompson hill ever witnessed, far superior to the much vaunted "trainings" of other days, and based upon a far deeper and more intelligent patriotism. The collation served to many hundreds of weary men in the decorated town house was worthy of the day and occasion, and the rousing cheers for "Old Thompson" that closed the festivities were never more heartily given and appreciated.

Thompson Bank, which has so creditably held its own through village, national and financial vicissitudes, was incorporated in 1833—Harvey Blashfield, president; Joseph B. Gay, cashier. Among its early directors were Harvey Blashfield, John Nichols, William H. Mason, William Reed, William Fisher, Robert Grosvenor, Franklin Nichols, Jonathan Nichols, Simon Davis and George B. Slater. Neighboring manufacturers found this bank a convenient accommodation, and were much interested in its prosperity and stability. Some heavy losses that accrued in early years were tided over by the help of willing friends, and it soon gained a sterling reputation. Its second president, Judge John



"SOUTH" COTTAGE.

THE MAIN BUILDING.

"OLIVE" COTTAGE.

THE BARN.

THE PAVILION.

"DAVIS" COTTAGE.

THE "BEN-GROSVENOR," POMFRET CENTRE, CONN.

Nichols, resigned in 1837, and was succeeded by Mr. Talcott Crosby, who remained in charge till compelled by ill health to resign in 1865, when he was succeeded by Mr. Jeremiah Olney, who still remains in charge, their united term of service covering fifty-two years. Messrs. Joseph B. Gay, Theodore Sharpe, William Osgood, A. E. Parker, Hiram and Charles Arnold have served as cashiers. Many of Thompson's most substantial and sterling citizens have acted as directors. The present board comprises Messrs. Jeremiah Olney, L. K. Blackmar, James N. Kingsbury, George H. Nichols, Thomas D. Sayles, Hiram Arnold, George S. Crosby, David Chase, Frank M. Messenger.

The Dime Savings Bank, of Thompson, was incorporated in 1871, and accommodates a large number of depositors. President, George H. Nichols; treasurer, Charles Arnold. Amount of deposits, January, 1888, \$439,233.18.

The Thompson Fire Engine Company has entered upon its second half century, alive and in good condition, stimulated by the agreeable consciousness of having saved much valuable property. Its antiquated hand-engine, however insignificant and ridiculous to modern eyes, has as good a record as the largest in the nation, having put out every fire to which it has been summoned. Again and again it has rushed in at the breach and saved valuable houses from destruction. It has also faithfully fulfilled the second object of its creation—the exaction of fines for non-attendance upon its stated meetings, and expended part of its surplus in the “Thompson Fire Engine Library,” a collection of valuable books, needing only care and fitting “local habitation” to make it worthy of its name. Its roll of membership embraces nearly every male resident of the vicinity of Thompson hill from the date of its formation. Present membership twenty-five; officers: George V. Ballard, captain; Fred Green, first lieutenant; George Wilks, second lieutenant; George W. Dexter, clerk and treasurer, also librarian; George Wilks to warn the company.

The first post office in town was opened on Thompson hill in 1805, Doctor Daniel Knight postmaster. His successors, John Nichols and Simon Davis, continued to be the sole postmasters of the town. The second post office was opened in Fisherville about 1840, William Fisher postmaster. Mr. Jeremiah Olney succeeded Esquire Davis at about the same date. A change in presidential administration sent the office into Mr. Knight's store

across the street. Another change bowled it back to Mr. Olney. Mr. James N. Kingsbury administered the office for several years. Mr. L. K. Blackmar held it during the Cleveland administration, and under the present dynasty it reverts to Mr. C. V. Chapin. Within the last generation its sphere has been much circumscribed—each manufacturing and railroad village demanding its own special accommodations. Nine post offices are now required by Thompson—the largest number of any town in the county. They are located at Thompson hill, East Thompson, West Thompson, Grosvenor Dale, North Grosvenor Dale, Mechanicsville, Wilsonville, New Boston and Quinebaug.

The recent loss of Hon. William H. Chandler, so long and intimately identified with the public interests of Thompson, is mourned by the whole community. Mr. Chandler was of Pomfret ancestry, born in Providence, R. I., April 14th, 1815, graduated from Yale College in 1839. Debarred from pursuing legal studies by weakness of eyes, he decided upon country life, and in 1842 purchased of Mrs. Jacob Dresser the "Priest Russel homestead" in Thompson village, taking possession of the old house immediately after his marriage, and devoting himself with much interest to the culture and improvement of his farm. He manifested from the first much interest in public affairs, making himself a power in town meetings and in the administration of town government. Although shrinking from public office, Mr. Chandler's extensive reading, keen insight and sound judgment gave his counsels much weight and influence, especially with advancing years, and probably no man in town was more widely known and respected. He was early sent as representative and state senator, and his name was often mentioned in connection with higher appointments, but his dislike for public life could not be overcome. An earnest republican and true patriot, he was ever ready to serve party and country with wise counsel and material aid, and his name and promises were looked upon as a tower of strength during the dark hours of the war.

Averse to parade and ostentation, simple in habits and taste, Mr. Chandler was exceedingly genial and sympathetic, with much playful humor and ready gift of conversation, discoursing pleasantly with all with whom he came in contact. Possessing strong individuality, he had his own views and preferences, but was very ready to help in all projects that met his approval. Many of the beautiful trees now adorning the village will help

perpetuate the memory of him who planted and watched over them so tenderly. Mr. Chandler was a firm friend of the Congregational church and society, ever ready to do his proportion of anything needed for their growth and benefit. His public spirited services in clearing the roads after the memorable March blizzard brought on or confirmed the rheumatic attack which ended his valuable life, May 13th, 1888. His son, Mr. Randolph Chandler, who for some years has practiced law in Putnam, succeeds to the family residence.

No living citizen of Thompson has rendered such substantial service to his mother state as Hon. Jeremiah Olney. Born near his present residence in this village, attending its public schools, Mr. Olney grew up to fill the ordinary stations of town life, keeping store, serving as constable, postmaster and representative. Appointed town agent during the war, his superior executive abilities were recognized, and he was appointed to serve as United States assessor, which office he filled with his accustomed energy and fidelity. A few years later he was nominated by the republican party for the office of school fund commissioner, but by some political arrangement the democratic incumbent was left in charge another term. During this interim Mr. Olney administered the affairs of the Thompson Bank, and served as town representative at the legislature. A keen-eyed reporter depicts him as "a dignified gentleman of the old school, spare in form, immaculate in dress, with a fine command of language, a strong sense of justice, and whose brave utterances command the most respectful attention." In 1880 he was elected to the responsible position of school fund commissioner, involving the care and handling of a most important public trust, demanding financial experience and sound judgment. Mr. Olney's administration of the school fund has been exceptionally strong and able. The fact of his unanimous appointment to a third term of service testifies to the respect and confidence accorded to him by all parties.

Mr. Charles E. Searls, the late popular secretary of state, resides in this village; a strong republican, chairman of the great Harrison mass meeting at Woodstock, a man whom his fellow-citizens delight to honor.

The popular favorite of a preceding generation, Mr. William S. Scarborough, has returned to his old home in Thompson, after prolonged residence at Cincinnati.

Our physician, Doctor Holbrook, represents a medical succession of more than seventy years, his father, Doctor Horatio Holbrook, entering upon practice in this village about 1816. He occupies the house built by D. R. Wickham nearly a hundred years ago.

The very oldest house in town is the residence of our present town clerk and representative, Mr. James N. Kingsbury, a native of Webster, but for over twenty years a resident of the village, filling many important offices.

The original Watson House is the pleasant home of our aged citizen, Judge Rawson, born in East Alstead, N. H., April 22d, 1802, served acceptably many years in the ministry, till obliged to relinquish active service by injuries received in a railroad accident. He removed to Thompson in 1853, where, with his son-in-law, Mr. Parker, he conducted a family school, and also performed much public service in occasional preaching, school visitation and as judge of probate.

Three venerable Ballard brothers, life-long residents of Thompson, reside within the district, whose united ages reach 256 years, viz.: Winthrop Hilton, 88; Deacon Valentine, 85; Hamilton, 83 years. The scriptural promise of length of days to men of peace, wisdom and rectitude is fulfilled in these "hoary heads."

Mr. James Munyan represents one of the oldest families in town, has carried on mercantile business, administered the post office, and served as selectman. Mr. L. K. Blackmar has also served faithfully in various offices. Messrs. Horace and Marvin D. Elliott represent an old family, remarkable for inherited industry and steadfastness. Mr. George S. Crosby was associated with his father in the management of the Crosby House. Mr. Horace Morse occupies the former home of Mr. Obadiah Stone. The oldest household by far in Thompson village is that still occupying the house built by Mr. Joseph Watson soon after his marriage, in 1791. Five of this family were living when the youngest had attained her 78th year. Mr. Noadiah Watson and Miss Katharine Watson still represent the family. The house built by Mr. William H. Mason was purchased after the decease of Mrs. Lydia (Watson) Mason by Major William S. Beebe.

The "History of Windham County," written and published by Miss Ellen D. Larned, has won a high place among local histories. About fourteen years were spent in collecting material and preparing this work. No pains were spared to ensure ac-



W. W. Preston, & Co. N. Y.

Ellen D. Larnell

curacy and thoroughness, and the result justifies the cost. The citizens of Windham county have reason to be proud of their history. Miss Larned represents the family of William Larned, who removed to this section in 1712, and is the last of the name in town. Another Thompson authoress, Mrs. A. K. Dunning, represents the family of Doctor Dow, as the daughter of Mrs. Nancy (Dow) Ketchum. Mrs. Dunning has been very successful in religious works and stories, contributing notably to Sunday school literature.

Thompson hill is peculiarly favored in the character of its summer residents—its own children, not transient strangers. Its young men who went out from Thompson homes to engage in business come back to found new summer homes for their families. These village boys have made successful businessmen. One of the most prominent is Mr. John W. Doane of Chicago, a merchant prince, engaged largely in importing trade, president of Chicago's Board of Trade, prominent in the Pullman Car Company, and in many important business enterprises. Mr. Doane is very highly esteemed in his adopted city, and has won by his unaided exertions a most honorable place among the foremost business men of the day. A pleasant rural home in Thompson is occupied by his family half of the year.

Another representative of old Thompson families, Mr. Henry Elliott, starting out alone for the great city in early youth, has won a most honorable position and good name among the "solid men" of Brooklyn, N. Y. His near kinsmen, Messrs. John E. Jacobs and Jerome E. Bates, are successful business men, and like Messrs. Doane and Elliott, have summer homes in Thompson village. Another successful business man, now of Grand Rapids, Mich., Mr. Edgar Olney, has transformed the former residence of Judge Crosby into an idyllic summer resting place. The sons of Mr. Scarborough, Mrs. Erastus Knight, Mrs. George Shaw, Messrs. Bates and Marvin Elliott are welcomed among the usual summer sojourners. Mr. Andrew Mills has three sons in Boston, two of them connected with the administration of the Conservatory of Music, whose visits bring a welcome addition to the chorus of summer song.

Many sons of Thompson from all parts of the town have achieved success and distinction in varied fields. Norwich is indebted to Thompson for her veteran citizens, Mr. Franklin Nichols, president of the Thames National Bank, and Mr. Lucius

W. Carrol, president of the First National Bank. Few men in our country are more widely known or better serving their generation than Reverend Samuel W. Dike, D.D., prime leader in the anti-divorce movement, and secretary of the National Divorce Reform League. Mr. Dike belongs to another old Thompson family, still occupying the original homestead of their ancestor, James Dike. Reverend Joseph P. Bixby, grandson of the venerable Deacon Aaron Bixby, is a popular and successful pastor at Revere, Mass., and president of the Bible Conference Institute, established at Crescent Beach. Two grandsons of the venerated Elder Grow, Reverends Jerome P. Bates and W. Elliott Bates, and Reverend James F. Hill, son of "Father James Hill," are honored and successful Baptist ministers. Another grandson of Elder Grow, Captain George W. Davis, performed most valuable service during the war, and built for himself an enduring monument by carrying forward and completing the National Memorial at Washington. Representative John Waite reports: "It was Capt. Davis who arranged and perfected all the elevating machinery that carried the stones one after another from the surface of the earth as they went up toward the sky. It was his skill and rare ingenuity that invented the machinery which was so vitally important as a most efficient agent in the the rapid and successful prosecution of the work. In the important matter of strengthening and perfecting the foundation of the monument the suggestions and assistance of Capt. Davis were invaluable."

Very valuable military service was also performed by another Thompson boy—John E. Tourtellotte; graduated from Brown University in 1856, studied law and commenced practice in Minnesota; joined the Fourth Minnesota Infantry regiment as captain in 1861, served in the same regiment as lieutenant-colonel to the close of the war, accompanied General Sherman on his march to the sea, breveted brigadier-general in 1865, resigned volunteer service, and appointed captain in the regular army in 1866, appointed colonel and aide-de-camp on the staff of General Sherman in 1871. While in this position he enjoyed the unique privilege of attendance upon the Princess Louise and Marquis of Lorne during their visit to the United States, as the accredited representative of the national government—a son of the sovereign people entertaining the daughter of the queen and empress.

Three sons of the late Thomas E. Graves, Esq., born on Thompson hill, were conspicuous during the war. Colonel Emmons E. Graves entered upon service in 1861 first lieutenant of the Thirteenth Connecticut regiment, continued in service throughout the war, and had the honor of raising the Union flag upon the state capitol after the taking of Richmond. Lieutenant Frank H. Graves was the first Union officer to enter Fort Fisher. T. Thatcher Graves, returning from an interesting sojourn in Africa in 1863, entered at once upon service as volunteer aid to General B. F. Butler, received commission from President Lincoln as captain in the 114th Kentucky volunteers, detailed as aid to Major-General G. Weitzel, and served at the front until the close of the war; assisted in the occupation of Richmond, being the first Union officer to enter Libby Prison, and to take possession of the house vacated by Jefferson Davis; served under General Weitzel on the Rio Grande, with rank of brevet-major for two years, and was mustered out with the last volunteer officers in 1867. He pursued medical studies at Harvard, graduating at the head of his class in 1871, has practiced medicine at Lynn, Mass., Danielsonville, Conn., and Providence, R. I., with characteristic energy and promptness. Doctor Graves is pre-eminently an "emergency man," always ready for the occasion.

Daniel R. Larned, born in West Thompson village, engaged in volunteer service as captain; was promoted to rank of lieutenant-colonel for gallant conduct at siege of Knoxville; private secretary to General Burnside; serves as paymaster in regular army, with rank of major.

Joseph E. Gay, mining broker, an active republican and influential member of the Union League Club, New York, grew up on Thompson hill.

Isaac N. Mills, of Brandy hill, graduated with distinction at Harvard College, engaged successfully in the practice of law at Mount Vernon, N. Y., and soon received the honorable appointment of judge in the court of Westchester county, succeeding one of the great judges of the state.

"Westward the course of empire takes its way," but a goodly number of Thompsonians have found fame, wealth or competency in eastward cities. The ancient Converse family is well represented in Boston. James, son of Elisha Converse, began

his honorable life-work in that city a poor boy, thirteen years of age. In 1833, at the age of twenty-five, he aided in organizing the business firm of Field & Converse, so widely known in business circles. Remarkably successful in business, he has been still more eminent in works of mercy and beneficence, founding missions, building churches, strengthening the hands of fellow laborers. His brother, Elisha S. Converse, after engaging a short time in business on Thompson hill, removed to Boston in 1844, and since 1853 has served as treasurer and general manager of the Boston Rubber Shoe Company, having his residence in Malden. The stately and beautiful Converse Memorial Building, given to the citizens of Malden in 1885, for the use of a free public library and gallery of art, by Mr. and Mrs. Converse, in memory of their oldest son, will bear their names in grateful remembrance to later generations.

Year after year, upon the roll of Boston's legislative representatives and sterling men is found the name of Jacob A. Dresser—fourth in descent and name from the first white boy born in Thompson. Richard L. Gay, Ashley and William Mills were born in Thompson. Other business men in Providence, Worcester and various parts of the land emigrated from the same old town.

Space allows but a brief record of emigrants of preceding generations. All over the land they may be found; through the West and beyond the Rockies, descendants of those who in earlier years helped build up Vermont and New York. Carrying out into the world a certain stability and tenacity that enabled them to make their way amid hardships and toil, they have borne an important part in building up and developing the nation. Unable to follow them in all their various callings, we give a list of those only who have served as ministers:

Baptists.—John B. Ballard, born 1795; ordained 1823; "established Sunday schools in every town in North Carolina;" labored as missionary in New York city. Benjamin M. Hill, D. D., ordained in Stafford, September 23d, 1818; corresponding secretary of American Baptist Home Missionary Society. Lewis Seamans, preached at De Ruyter, N. Y., died November, 1826, aged 29 years. John Pratt, licensed to preach September 2d, 1822; professor of Greek and Latin in Granville College, Ohio. Austin Robbins, licensed to preach 1835; labored faithfully in Maine and mission fields.

Congregational.—Joseph, son of Reverend Noadiah Russel, settled in Princeton, Mass., but dismissed on account of ill health. Stephen, son of Elijah Crosby, a much beloved and useful pastor in Penn Yan, N. Y., died early. Henry Gleason settled in Durham, Conn.; died early, respected and lamented. Joseph T. Holmes, labored in the West. D. Nichols Coburn, settled in Ware, Mass. John Bowers, pastor in Wilbraham, Mass. Herbert A., son of William Reed, Esq., West Thompson, preached at Webster, Mass; removed to Michigan. William A., son of George Larned, Esq., settled over the church in Milbury, Mass.; obliged to relinquish preaching from bronchial trouble; taught in the Theological Seminary, Troy, N. Y.; appointed professor of rhetoric in Yale College in 1840; died February 3d, 1862—a thorough scholar, a brilliant speaker, sound in judgment, prompt in action, genial and attractive in private life.

Methodist.—Jefferson Hascall, born 1807; converted in early youth and exercising his gifts in exhortation. Mr. Hascall was distinguished for power and eloquence from the beginning of his ministry. His labors in his first pastorate resulted in the professed conversion of more than 150 persons. Independence and originality of thought, accompanied by fervid imagination and a magnetic delivery, gave him a high place among the many distinguished pulpit orators of the Methodist ranks. The mere announcement of his presence would fill the seats at any meeting. For more than twenty years he served as presiding elder, and twice represented New England in the General Conference. A man of strong faith and enthusiasm, but with simple, child-like spirit, he impressed himself strongly upon the generation. A popular hymn, written upon instant inspiration, will help commemorate his honored name:

“ My latest sun is sinking fast,
My race is nearly run,
My strongest trials now are past,
My triumph is begun.”

Doctor Hascall died February 13th, 1887. His brother, Reverend Squier Hascall, also served acceptably in the ministry.

The Thompson Grange is a new institution here. It was established about two years since, and now numbers about forty members, residing in different parts of the town. The present master is George N. Comins; steward, George Ballard.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

EDWARD ALDRICH.—Edward Aldrich, the grandfather of the subject of this biography, resided on the homestead farm in Thompson. His son Easick, a native of Douglas, spent the chief portion of his life in Thompson. He married Miriam Howland, of Burrillville, R. I., whose children were: Elizabeth, Edward, John, Viletta and Eddy. Edward Aldrich, the eldest of these sons, was born on the 25th of July, 1808, in Thompson, where he became a pupil of the neighboring school and afterward pursued his studies for one or more terms at Dudley, Mass. His education was, however, more the result of judicious reading and of habits of reflection, than of training under masters, and he may therefore be spoken of as self-taught. His father having purchased a farm in Thompson, Mr. Aldrich devoted his life to agriculture until 1870, when failing health compelled a cessation from active labor. He then retired to the residence in Woodstock which is the present home of Mrs. Aldrich. He was for many years engaged in the purchase and sale of stock, which transactions were conducted with much success.

An early whig and later a republican, he served many terms as selectman, was for a long period justice of the peace, and frequently represented his town in the legislature. During the late war he was a loyal and zealous supporter of the government. Mr. Aldrich was a man of excellent judgment and undoubted integrity. His services were therefore often sought as appraiser and arbitrator, and in the settlement of estates. He was one of the directors of the Thompson Bank. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Grosvenor Dale, and one of its building committee during the erection of the present edifice.

Mr. Aldrich was married February 22d, 1830, to Ardelia, daughter of Israel Comstock, of Union, Tolland county, Conn. Their only child, a son, Edward Harrison, married Harriet Gager, of Woodstock. Both died at an early age, leaving five children as follows: Edward Gurdon, Imogene Osborn, Isadore Estelle, wife of Randolph Chandler; Inez Harriet and Irene Fanny. With the exception of the last named daughter, all these children were taken by Mrs. Aldrich, on the death of their parents, reared and educated as her own. The death of Mr. Aldrich occurred at his home in Woodstock on the 12th of August, 1874.



Edward Aldrich



WILLIAMS & CO. N.Y.

Jerome E. Bates

JEROME E. BATES.—Clement Bates, of Hertfordshire, England, aged 40, with his wife Ann, and their children, James, Clement, Rachel, Joseph and Benjamin, came to America in the ship "Elisabeth," April 6th, 1635, and settled in Hingham, Mass. Clement Bates died in Hingham, September 17th, 1671. His son Joseph, by wife Hester, was the father of Joseph, who was the father of eight children, settled in that part of Scituate now Hanover, in 1695, and died there July 9th, 1740. His son, Joseph, married Mary Bowker, who died a widow, July 30th, 1759. Jacob Bates, the ancestor of the Thompson branch of the Bates family, left Hingham as early as 1730, and after spending some years in Bellingham, Mass., settled in Thompson with his two sons, John and Elijah. His son, Elijah, spent his life as a farmer in his native town, and was the father of George, Tyler, Reuben, Moses, Elijah, William and Jacob. William Bates, born 1784, whose life was devoted to agricultural pursuits, married Sally, daughter of Edward Joslin, whose children were three sons—William, Walter and Winsor—and five daughters. Walter Bates, a manufacturer of furniture, was born in Thompson, January 31st, 1814, and still resides in his native town. He married Mary Jacobs, daughter of Thomas Elliott, of the same town, and became the father of eleven children: Jerome E., Lowell H., Mary J., William N., George F., Julia A., John L., Josephine W., Frank J., and two who died in infancy. The coat of arms presented to the early English branch of the Bates family was for valorous deeds performed during the Crusades.

Jerome E. Bates was born in Thompson, and began his business career as clerk in a country store in the same town. In October, 1863, he removed to Brooklyn, N. Y., and entered a retail boot and shoe store as clerk. In February, 1866, Mr. Bates established himself as a wholesale dealer in boots and shoes in New York, under the firm name of A. J. Bates & Co. This venture from small beginnings gradually increased in dimensions. Their business requires the room afforded by three stores, and has, from its first inception, steadily grown in importance and in its successful results. In 1884 the firm added the manufacture of boots and shoes in Webster, Mass. Mr. Bates is a director of the Clinton Bank of New York. He was married in 1873 to Eliza Whitmore, daughter of Woodruff L. Barnes, who was a son of Doctor Enos Barnes, a leading man and one of the early settlers of western New York. They have had five children, two of whom, Jessie W. and Edna B., died in youth. The survivors are Clara W., Leonard W. and Ethel E.

WILLIAM SULLY BEEBE was born at Ithaca, N. Y., in 1841, and educated with a view to his appointment to the Military Academy at West Point. He was one of the president's appointments there in 1858, on account of the services of his uncle and adopted father, Captain John C. Casey, himself a graduate of 1829, a member of the board of visitors of 1843, chief commissary on General Taylor's staff in Mexico, "whose zeal, intelligence and devotion to duty to the hour of his death, gave a peculiar claim and promise of faithful service to his young relative." He graduated in 1863, fifteenth in a class of twenty-five, was appointed a second lieutenant of ordnance and assigned to St. Louis Arsenal except during the time of Morgan's raid, when he served as volunteer aid with the forces opposing Morgan in Kentucky and Indiana. At his urgent request he was ordered to the field in the Department of the Gulf as assistant to its chief of ordnance. He applied for detail with the Red River Expedition then starting, and was appointed its chief ordnance officer, taking part in all the battles and actions of that campaign, acting as aid to the general commanding at the battle of Sabine Cross Roads, leading the supports of Nims' Battery in an attempt to recover it from the enemy, when his horse was killed under him inside the battery and he himself was wounded, for which service he was reported to headquarters by the chief of staff, an eye-witness of the occurrence. In the action of the same day, when the 19th Army Corps repulsed the confederate advance, he was sent to restore the extreme right of the federal line, in which effort he was successful, taking advantage of the confederate check to drive them in turn and capturing many prisoners, thus securing the first authentic intelligence of Taylor's reinforcement by Churchill's Missouri Column, for which he received the thanks of the 19th Corps commander, and was again commended to army headquarters. At the battle of Pleasant Hill he was commended by the general commanding the army and 19th Corps for his promptness and energy in leading the supports into action. At the evacuation of Alexandria, and the conflagration that took place during a gale, he, at the head of a detail of picked men, attempted to stay the fire by blowing up the buildings in its path. During this time the party again and again escaped destruction by premature explosion, in some cases the flakes from burning buildings falling into the receptacles for powder when they were about to be filled. For this he was thanked by the citizens of the town, headed by a brother-in-law of General Albert



William L. Dubo
Capt. Major U. S. Army

Sidney Johnston, who pledged the good name of the town for the safety and release of the party in case of its capture by the confederate advance.

When the fleet under command of Admiral David D. Porter had been forced to lighten draught by landing their guns, the first intention had been to burst them, but on Lieutenant Beebe's stating that he was confident he could move them below the falls and reload them on the vessels to which they belonged, he was given the men to make the attempt and succeeded in saving all but five old model 32s, which he had to leave through lack of time. For this service Admiral Porter wrote as follows: "It was under Captain Beebe's orders that that most efficient ordnance party worked so laboriously and efficiently to save the guns of the fleet from falling into the hands of the enemy, and but for Captain Beebe's energy and perseverance the guns would have been so abandoned."

At the battle of Cane River Crossing, while the rear guard were being pressed by the enemy, and while the head of the column was held in check by some 8,000 confederates strongly entrenched, with artillery in position, in fact, when success was vital, he was directed by the new chief of staff, General Dwight, to join the column detached to dislodge this force and "on his arrival to signal what he thought the strength of the opposing force and to unremittingly urge the necessity for speed, in which action he would be sustained by his superiors." On his arrival, finding the confederate skirmish line on the advance instead of being pushed, he volunteered to lead the regiment in front of him in assault if suitably supported, which offer was at first declined with some asperity, but on its being renewed when the confederates showed signs of attacking in force, was promptly accepted. He led the assault, being the first man inside the confederate lines, from which they were driven in full retreat and for which their commander was relieved from his command and was tried by court martial. In this assault the attacking column lost some 200 men. On his return he was complimented by the column commander on the spot, and on arriving at headquarters was informed by the chief of staff, who sent him, that while waiting for his report by signal, he received the news that the enemy had been driven out of their works by an assault led by the staff officer he had sent. Lieutenant Beebe was brevetted captain in the U. S. Army to date from this battle as follows: "For gallant and meritorious services and for intrepidity and

daring and skill in handling men in the face of the enemy."

On the run down the Mississippi, when the headquarter boat was under fire at Tunica Bend, the battery was engaged at close quarters by a rifle placed on the boat's upper deck with such satisfactory results that although the boat itself was riddled, no lives were lost, and the transports following passed without receiving a shot. This gun was manned by members of the general staff, Lieutenant Sargent, Doctor Homans and others, under Lieutenant Beebe's direction.

When the expedition terminated Lieutenant Beebe received leave of absence with a view to his acceptance of a volunteer command, for which he was recommended by the general commanding and every corps commander in the department, as follows: "He has shown upon various occasions intrepidity and daring and skill in handling men in the face of the enemy that merit the highest applause, and should secure for him any position he may choose to seek. At Cane River Crossing he particularly distinguished himself by leading a regiment on a charge, most gallantly carrying a strong position held by the enemy. . . . You will find him fully competent to command a regiment or even a larger body of men."

General W. B. Franklin, commander of the 19th Army Corps, said: "I am sure that a regiment under his command cannot fail to distinguish itself, and I cordially endorse his application." Owing to the appearance of smallpox on the transport on which he sailed and the consequent quarantine, Lieutenant Beebe lost the opportunity he had in view, and as he found that political influence would be required in any new direction, something he had neither time nor inclination to seek, he returned to his station at New Orleans, where he found that without his knowledge an order had been issued assigning him to duty on the staff of General Gordon Granger, then about to undertake the expedition for the capture of Forts Gaines and Morgan, the outer defenses of Mobile bay. Against General Granger's friendly contention he had this order recalled, preferring the position of chief of ordnance of the expedition to even such a complimentary position as that offered him. During the siege of Fort Morgan the method of supply for the batteries by wagon along the beach being tedious, he was asked by his chief if he thought he could run a light draught steamer captured from the enemy, under cover of darkness and relying on the fire of our sharpshooters to

prevent its being sunk, up to the mortar batteries, which were within a few hundred yards of the fort, with a deck load of powder and shell. This he undertook to do the next morning at daylight, and when about to land his cargo, saw in the dusk the flag of truce just sent out with a view to the surrender of the fort. He accordingly ran by the batteries and over the torpedo ground, trusting to his light draught, and tied up at the fort wharf. Owing to this circumstance and the politeness of the confederate ordnance officer, who came down to the end of the wharf and invited him to make the tour of the fort, he was the first person inside the works from the federal side, which was then on fire and was surrendered that day at noon. He was, on General Granger's nomination, brevetted major, to date from the capture of the fort, "for gallant and meritorious services at the siege of Fort Morgan."

A few months later the expedition under command of General E. R. S. Canby, for the reduction of Mobile and its outlying defenses, Forts Blakely, Huger and Tracy, and Spanish Fort, was undertaken, when Major Beebe was, at his own request, ordered to duty as its chief ordnance officer, his especial charge being an ordnance and siege train that was drilled for the purpose, reviewed by the commanding general and received his written commendation. While the troops were being transferred across the bay after the outlying defenses and the city itself surrendered, Major Beebe took the yawl of one of his transports, and with her captain and mate as crew, a confederate pilot pressed into the service, and Colonel Palfrey, chief engineer, as fellow-passenger, ran across the obstructions and torpedo ground and put up the first flag in the city of Mobile, on the spire of the Episcopal church, the confederate cavalry raiding the streets while they were thus engaged, and the party only escaping capture by the confederates being so sharply pressed by our infantry as not to have time to dismount.

Major Beebe was one of a half dozen officers sent to Meridian, Miss., to receive the surrender of General Dick Taylor's army and supplies, after which, the war being over, he was sent to command Mount Vernon Arsenal, Ala., from there to Frankford Arsenal, Pa., where in securing the arrest of a night expedition of river thieves he, with two enlisted men, captured their whole outfit, a sloop and yawl, one of the party, and were forced to kill another who fired the first shot and died pistol in hand. The men with him were commended in post orders.

From Frankford he was ordered to Fort Monroe, and during an explosion that took place in an ammunition house in one of the redoubts, a building some twenty feet square, in which, "when the explosion took place there were some twenty barrels of powder" and five men, two of whom were mortally wounded and three killed, "the powder and wounded were safely gotten out of the way by Major W. S. Beebe and Richard Oldfield, William Hayward, James Cooney and Private Carter, Company A, Third Artillery. The conduct of Major Beebe was highly commendable in his efforts to save life and property, as he exposed himself to more than ordinary danger in doing so."

From Fort Monroe he was ordered to Watervliet Arsenal, Troy, N. Y., and from there to Alleghany Arsenal, Pittsburgh, Pa., and finally to Rock Island, Ill., from which place he resigned, to take "effect at the end of the year as an unusual mark of favor." Previous to his resignation Major Beebe had gone abroad with a circular from the State Department, worded as follows: "That the Department took peculiar pleasure in commending him as one who had conducted himself with distinguished ability and gallantry in the field, during the late Civil War," and "that he came highly commended by General Grant, General Meade and General Dyer, Chief of his Corps."

Before and since his resignation Major Beebe has been a close student of American mythology, especially in its relations to European and Asiatic religions, and is firmly of the opinion that common religious property is due altogether to American loans. He upholds the following theory, which in the main is his own:

I. A great philosophical culte once occupied all the Americas, originating in Peru.

II. The backbone of this culte was a theory of number founded on recurrence, which had early attracted the attention of the aborigines, and that this theory of number is founded in fact.

III. That the tablets found at Davenport, Ia., and Piqua, Ohio, are authentic, and that he not only has read them but can restore missing portions.

IV. The phonetic values of these pictographs are Shemitic, including many well-known proper names, the legends, the same as the Accadian on which the Genesis Cycle is founded, and that they had their origin here, in short, are American.

To prove these statements he has collected a mass of illustration, a very large part of which is entirely new, and now has his work well under way, doing all the labor of text, illustration, and print himself.

LUCIUS BRIGGS was born in Coventry, R. I., December 21st, 1825. He is the son of Wanton and Mary Tift Briggs, of Coventry, R. I. Wanton Briggs was the son of Jonathan Briggs, also of Coventry, who served in the revolutionary army from the beginning to the end of the war, taking part in many important, hard fought battles, and received an honorable discharge signed by General Washington himself. Mary Tift Briggs was the daughter of Solomon Tift, of Groton, Conn. He served the cause of his country during the revolutionary period on the ocean. He was taken prisoner and confined for months in the hulk known as the old Jersey prison ship, in New York harbor. The horrors endured by the prisoners is a matter of history.

Wanton Briggs was a farmer of Coventry, having a family of seven sons and three daughters. Cotton manufactories were then springing up all over New England, and particularly in Rhode Island, and he decided to leave his farm and locate in a factory village. He selected the village owned by the late Governor Harris in Coventry, and there he remained many years, bringing up his children to habits of industry, and a knowledge of the business three of them have so successfully followed. The subject of this sketch took his place in the mill as soon as his age permitted, and with only intervals to attend the village school, and one year in Smithville Seminary, of Smithville, R. I., followed the factory bell until nineteen years old, becoming proficient in all the branches of cotton manufacturing. He then took two years apprenticeship in building cotton machinery, followed by two years of repairing machinery in Governor Harris' mill. The gold fever was now taking many young men to California, and Mr. Briggs and his brother, Wanton, Jr., decided to try their fortunes there. They sailed from Warren, R. I., in the ship "Hopewell," January 28th, 1849, and reached San Francisco August 9th. They spent two years in mining, teaming and trade, when Lucius decided to return, while his brother remained some years longer. Soon after his return, Mr. Briggs, in accordance with a previous engagement, married Harriet Taylor Atwood, of Warwick, R. I. Four children were born to them, two sons and two daughters. A boy

and a girl died in infancy, leaving Charles W. Briggs, now in business in New York, and Evelyn Clara Cranska, wife of Floyd Cranska, a successful manufacturer of fine combed yarns, of Moosup, Conn. Soon after his return from California and marriage, Mr. Briggs went to Masonville, Thompson, Conn., to repair the machinery in the lower or wooden mill belonging to the Masonville Company. The machinery had become considerably worn, and the engagement of Mr. Briggs was expected to be temporary, only long enough to put it in order. But he liked the place, and at the solicitation of his employers, he remained, and in the following spring took charge of all repairs in the company's three mills. So well pleased were the Masonville Company with Mr. Briggs' services that a year later he was made superintendent of the mills, and local agent of all the company's business and interests in the village. At this time William Mason of Thompson, owned a majority interest in the Masonville Company, and the late Hon. William Grosvenor of Providence, R. I., who married a niece of Mr. Mason, was agent, but with no direct interest in the company. In less than a year after Mr. Briggs became superintendent Doctor Grosvenor bought the entire interest of Mr. Mason, except one-sixteenth, which was purchased by Mr. Briggs. Doctor Grosvenor and his sons soon after bought all remaining interests except the sixteenth of Mr. Briggs.

These purchases marked an era in the history of the Masonville Company, and of the individuals interested. The property now consisted of three small mills, with less than 8,000 spindles and 189 looms. Everything about the mills, except the machinery in the two upper ones, was old fashioned and out of date. The water wheels were of wood and placed under the mills. The canals leading water to the wheels were narrow and insufficient. The races taking it away were shallow, losing a good percentage of the power of the water in getting to and from the wheels. But the situation for manufacturing was favorable, and while the time for such small mills and such equipments was rapidly passing away, the new owners of Masonville bought more with reference to the future and what they could make of the property than for the present and what it then was. Quietly but rapidly, as prudence permitted, the property began to be modernized. Dams were rebuilt, canals and waterways were widened and deepened. The wood water



Lucius Briggs



wheels gave place to those of iron and bronze, placed outside of the mills. The two upper mills were built together, making one mill of 11,000 spindles, in place of two of 5,000. Later the wood mill at the lower fall was moved and changed to tenements, and a nice brick structure with 20,000 spindles of the very best patterns took the place of the 2,700 worn out ones, and the wood mill. This brought the 8,000 spindles and three mills to 31,000 spindles and two mills, and completed for the present the programme as far as that village was concerned. The village next above, called Fisherville, had a mill of 5,000 spindles and a large fall of water, less than half of which was developed. In 1864 Mr. Grosvenor and Mr. Briggs purchased the property and set about plans for its utmost development. Further water rights were secured, and the pond enlarged from about 10 acres to 84, and the fall of water increased from 11 feet to 26½. Immense embankments were raised for long distances, and at the approaches of the wheel pits the water was carried above grade, held in by high and heavy retaining walls.

An immense factory was built of brick, of splendid architectural designs, capable of holding easily 60,000 spindles and ample preparation. This mill was put in operation in 1872, bringing the number of spindles owned and operated by the company to about 96,000. In the meantime, and while these great changes were in progress, the names of "Fisherville" and "Masonville" had given place to "Grosvenor Dale" for the whole valley, including an unoccupied privilege between Masonville and Mechanicsville, and the young sons of Doctor Grosvenor, William and James, had completed collegiate courses and become partners in the company, and occupied important positions, William as an assistant to his father, and James as agent for the sale of the company's products in New York.

The above seems more the history of a company than the individual, but it is impossible to write the history of one without the other. From the day of the new ownership to the close of his connection with the property in 1883, Mr. Briggs had full charge of manufacturing and building, and was the author of all plans and projects for developments and enlargements, and purchased all machinery and material of every kind, made all contracts for building, including mills, warehouses, and several hundred tenements for help employed in the mills. Doctor Grosvenor, while not a practical manufacturer, was one of the

best business men ever raised in New England. With a judgment that almost never erred, with an enterprise that was tempered with caution, but which never hesitated or turned back from the greatest undertakings when his judgment had once approved them, his great means and resources made almost any undertaking possible. Mr. Briggs, from the moment he took the management of the mills, gave his whole time and abilities to the conducting of the business and the development of the property. Year after year of intense and close application gradually impaired his health, and soon after the completion of the large mill at North Grosvenor Dale this became so marked that his physician ordered him abroad, and December 15th, 1875, with his daughter Evelyn for a companion, he sailed from New York for Liverpool, and spent six months in travel in England, France, Italy, and the East, visiting Alexandria, Cairo, and other points in Egypt, Constantinople and minor cities in Turkey, the Ionian Islands, Athens and the various interesting localities in Greece. He returned in the following summer, much improved in health.

In 1883 it seemed necessary for the company to organize as a corporation. While agreeing fully as to the propriety of the change, Mr. Briggs did not wish to join the corporation, and an amicable arrangement was made by which he transferred his interest to Mr. Grosvenor. He is now (1889) half owner and manager of the Glasgo Yarn Mills, of Glasgo, Conn., a stockholder and director in the Norwich Bleach & Dye Works, an owner and director in the Glasgo Thread Company, of Worcester, Mass. He is also a large holder of the stock of the Ponemah Mills, near Norwich, Conn., one of the largest and finest plants for manufacturing fine cotton goods in America, if not in the world. For some years before leaving Grosvenor Dale Mr. Briggs was president of the flourishing Savings Bank of Thompson. In politics he has always been a republican. He has occupied seats in the house of representatives and the senate of Connecticut. During Mr. Briggs' absence in Europe, his son, C. W. Briggs, occupied his place as superintendent of the mills at Grosvenor Dale and North Grosvenor Dale, with credit to himself and the satisfaction of the company. Mrs. Briggs died in 1886.

JAMES W. and ELISHA S. CONVERSE.—The descent of the Converse family, of Thompson, from Roger de Coigneries, one of the trusted chieftains of William the Conqueror, has been else-



W. H. W. & Co. N.Y.

McKim
4



where given in this volume, and need not be repeated here. The first member of the family to emigrate from England to America was Deacon Edward Convers, who settled in Woburn, Mass. His grandson, Samuel Convers, in 1710 removed to Thompson parish, then Killingly, and became the progenitor of all branches of the family who bear the name, in Thompson. In the line of descent was Edward Convers, whose son Jonathan was the father of Deacon Jonathan Converse (the orthography of the name having been at this time changed), who resided in Thompson. His son, Elisha Converse, born in 1786, married in 1807 Betsey, daughter of Deacon James Wheaton, of the same town. Their sons, James W. and Elisha Slade Converse, are the subjects of this biography.

James W. Converse was born in Thompson, Windham county, Conn., January 11th, 1808, and in early youth removed with his parents successively to Woodstock, in the same county, to Dover and Needham, Mass. In 1821, while yet a mere lad, he started for Boston, a poor boy, and there began an eventful, useful and very successful career. He obtained employment with his uncles, Joseph and Benjamin Converse, who afterward assisted him to begin business in the Boylston Market. In 1832 he formed a co-partnership with William Hardwick, for the purpose of conducting the boot, shoe and leather business in Boston. One year later he joined Isaac Field in the hide and leather trade. Later he became a partner of John Field, and the firm of Field & Converse ranked as one of the leading and most reliable concerns in this line of business, enjoying excellent credit during all the panics that occurred throughout a period of thirty-seven years. In 1870 Mr. Converse retired from business, and has since been absorbed in his railroad, banking, real estate and other commercial schemes. In 1836 he aided in the organization of the old Mechanics' Bank of Boston, was made a director, and in 1847 its president, which office he held until January, 1888, when he retired, after having served the bank more than fifty years. Mr. Converse has for more than sixty years been an exemplary working member of the Baptist church, and for fifty years has served in various churches as deacon. He has been active in personal labors, liberal in charities and a perpetual inspiration to the Christian men around him. Mr. Converse married, September 5th, 1833, Emeline, daughter of Nathan Coolidge, of Boston. Their children are: James W.

(deceased), Costello Coolidge and Emma Maria, wife of Isaac W. Chick, of Boston.

Elisha Slade Converse, the third son of Elisha and Betsey (Wheaton) Converse, was born in Needham, Mass., July 28th, 1820. When he was four years of age his parents removed to Woodstock, Conn. Spending his childhood there, under the wholesome restraint and kindly influences of New England rural life, he was trained in habits of industry and integrity, and in the essentials of an English education. In his thirteenth year he was sent to Boston, that he might have the advantage of its superior schools. He remained there until sixteen years of age, when he returned home.

During the next three years he learned the trade of a clothier, and when nineteen years old he engaged in that business on his own account in the village of Thompson, continuing there five years. In 1844 he again went to Boston, where he made a change to the wholesale shoe and leather trade. The business was new to him, but he soon familiarized himself with its details, and during his connection with it the reputation and success of the firm became well established. In 1847 he removed his place of residence to Stoneham, Mass., and in 1849 to Malden, where he has ever since resided. In 1853 he accepted the office of treasurer of the Malden Manufacturing Company. Early in 1855 this company's corporate name was changed to that of the "Boston Rubber Shoe Company," when, by the earnest solicitation of the directors, he was induced to relinquish his previous business, and, in addition to the office of treasurer, to assume that of buying and selling agent. These offices he has held to the present time, and the direction and control of all operations, both at the factories and stores of this immense concern, have been unreservedly intrusted to his care. He is president of the First National Bank of Malden, president of the Boston Belting Company and of the Rubber Manufacturers' Mutual Insurance Company, director of the Revere Rubber Company and of the Exchange National Bank of Boston, trustee of the Five Cent Savings Bank and a member of the board of trustees of Wellesley College. He has served the commonwealth two years (1878-79) in the house of representatives and two years (1880-81) in the senate. In 1882, when Malden had been incorporated as a city, he was, by universal acclaim, awarded the honor of serving as its first mayor.



E. S. Converse

Mr. Converse is a successful business man, active in thought, untiring in work and conservative in method. He was, on the 4th of September, 1843, married to Mary D. Edmunds, daughter of Captain Hosea and Ursula Edmunds, of Thompson. Their children are : Frank Eugene (deceased), Mary Ida (wife of Costello C. Converse), Harry Elisha and Frances Eugenia.

In all of Mr. Converse's life history he has had a true helpmate in his wife. Her kind, sympathizing nature, her bountiful hospitality, her good judgment and her true womanly qualities have been to him of inestimable value. The names of Mr. and Mrs. Converse are inseparable in the history of Malden, and the mother's love and woman's generosity, no less than the father's love and his public spirit, have made for themselves a name which will last long after they have passed to their reward.

The church connections of Mr. Converse are with the First Baptist society of Malden. His private benefactions are as judiciously placed as his public bequests are wisely bestowed.

While he has done much for the public good in many ways, his greatest gift has been that of the Converse Memorial Building, in which the Malden Public Library has its home. This exquisite gift, which is one of the finest library buildings in the country, and which its talented designer, the late Henry H. Richardson, considered as one of his greatest works in many qualities, is in every way worthy of the noble uses to which it is dedicated. It was built by Mr. and Mrs. Converse as a memorial of their eldest son, whose tragic death caused a thrill of pity and sympathy throughout the community ; and it is characteristic of the donors, who are ever one in good works, that their wish to preserve his memory bore the fruitage of a great public benefaction.

This building, when completed, was given to the trustees of the Malden Public Library, "for the benefit of the inhabitants of the city of Malden." It is of brown sandstone from the Longmeadow quarries, and is in the Romanesque style, in which Mr. Richardson did so much noble and effective work. It is dependent upon form and proportion for its beauty, rather than upon exaggerated details and startling effects. Ornament it has, but its mouldings and graceful carvings were placed by the hand of an artist as if they grew from necessity in their places. There is nothing obtrusive in its features, nor is there a straining for effect ; but it is picturesque in an eminent degree, and its pic-

turesqueness, in all its parts, is a natural result of a perfect adaptability to structural necessity, and so fulfils a high artistic law.

Besides the library room and a large and convenient reading room, the building contains a noble room for an art gallery, which is filled with pictures which are valuable in themselves, and more valuable as a means of education and as promoters of public taste. Statues and pictures are in all parts of the building. In works of art Mr. and Mrs. Converse have been liberal givers, and their gifts in books for the library, and in funds for its improvement and maintenance have been unstinted and frequent. The memorial which they have raised will never decay, nor grow old, for it is a benefaction which has in it the spirit of eternal youth.

HENRY ELLIOTT.—The progenitor of the Elliott family in Thompson was Francis Elliott, a mariner, who settled in Salem, Mass., in 1686, and the same year married Abigail, daughter of John Nichols. Their son Thomas, who early in life resided at Middletown, in the same state, in 1723 married Lucy Flint. With his son Joseph he came to Thompson parish in 1749. Joseph Elliott was a revolutionary soldier, and commanded a company at the battle of Bunker Hill. He married Jesusa Bury, whose son Thomas was born in 1759 and died in 1843. He married Chloe, daughter of Issacher Bates, and had children: Aaron, Ebenezer, Ira, Thomas, and a daughter, Catherine. Thomas of this number was born in Thompson, December 24th, 1793, and died February 24th, 1872. He was three times married, the second union being with Polly Dexter, of Killingly. Their children were: Sally, Horace, Marvin D., Henry and Jane E., who died in 1859.

Henry Elliott was born July 12th, 1831, in Thompson, and received such an education as the public schools of the town afforded, supplemented by a limited period at Dudley, Mass. The routine of a farmer's life not being in accord with his energetic temperament, at sixteen he sought a clerkship in Woodstock, and was for two years thus employed. The year 1850 found the young man *en route* for New York city, determined by his own inherent force and industry to open the road to success and all the opportunities which follow in its train. He secured a position in a jobbing rubber boot and shoe house, where the first six months of service were given without remuneration. His



H. Emmett

quickness of perception and ceaseless energy speedily made themselves felt, and steady promotion was the result. At the expiration of the fourth year he was admitted to a partnership with the proviso, exacted by him, that the management of the business should rest exclusively with him. This relation was maintained until 1858, when Mr. Elliott purchased the remaining interest and continued the business as above. He had meanwhile become a prominent figure in the field of rubber goods, where his sagacity and shrewdness as a buyer, and skill as a salesman, had made his presence felt in the market. In matters connected with finance he was also regarded as evincing exceptional judgment and ability.

Mr. Elliott was appointed the agent in New York for three of the most important rubber boot and shoe companies in the United States, and added this responsibility to the business he had before conducted with marked success. In 1873 the firm of Wallace & Elliott was formed, embracing the large leather boot and shoe business of his brother-in-law, J. T. Whitehouse, and his own. To this firm his nephew, Mr. J. E. Jacobs, was admitted as a partner under the title of Wallace, Elliott & Co., and subsequently his son Clinton, thus establishing a house now ranking among the largest in the trade. They are extensive manufacturers of boots and shoes and the owners of several large factories in New England and elsewhere.

Mr. Elliott is in his political principles an earnest republican. He has had occasion to decline distinctive honors of a political character, preferring to be simply a worker while others enjoy the dignities of office. In his religious belief he is a Congregationalist. Mr. Elliott, on the 2d of April, 1857, married Mary A., daughter of William Whitehouse, of New Hampshire, then residing in Brooklyn, New York. Their children are: Harry A. and Osborn, deceased; Augusta, Clinton and Dexter. Mr. Elliott, since his removal from Thompson, has resided in the city of Brooklyn, New York, returning to his former home, where he has a residence, to spend the summer months.

DOCTOR WILLIAM GROSVENOR, the subject of this biography, was a descendant in the fifth generation from the original purchaser of the Mashamoquet tract. He was the son of Doctor Robert Grosvenor, and was born in Killingly, Conn., April 30th, 1810. He attended the best academies of his native state, and his father, needing his early assistance in the practice of his profession,

sent him first to the Chemical Laboratory of Yale College, and afterward to Philadelphia, where, for three years, he had special advantages in connection with the hospitals of the city, and attended the lectures of the Jefferson Medical School, at which he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1830. He immediately became associated with his father in medical practice, and in this connection he continued for four years, when he moved to Providence, and there he spent the remainder of his life.

The event which occasioned this change of residence, and thus gave a new direction to the whole course of his life, was his marriage to Miss Rosa Anne Mason, daughter of the Hon. James Brown Mason, of Providence. Her parents had died in her childhood, and Miss Mason was the ward of her uncle, Mr. Amasa Mason, of this city. Doctor Grosvenor came to Providence with the intention of continuing the practice of his profession, but finding himself in the midst of associations and interests connected with business, he soon abandoned his purpose, and engaged in business as a wholesale druggist, with Mr. Edward Chace, the copartnership bearing the name of Grosvenor & Chace. At the end of five years the copartnership was dissolved. He then embarked in the business of "stocking" calico printers with the cloth which they used, and in this business he continued till 1860. In 1848 he had been appointed to act in the place of Mr. Amasa Mason, who had become disabled by ill health, in the management of the mills at Masonville, in Thompson, Conn., and on the death of Mr. Mason in 1852 he was made the administrator of his estate, of which one-fourth part became the property of Mrs. Grosvenor. He also succeeded to the entire management of the manufacturing property of the Masonville Company, of which Mr. William H. Mason then owned one-half, the other half being the property of his wife and her sister, Mrs. Eaton.

He thus entered upon his career as a cotton manufacturer, a career which he pursued to the end of his life, with rare judgment, with singular assiduity, and with brilliant success. His earlier enterprises of business, especially that connected with printing cloths, had been successful, and with the capital thus acquired he soon purchased all the shares of the Masonville Mills, except those belonging to Mrs. Grosvenor. These latter were, in 1868, bought by his two sons. An interest of one-sixteenth was also sold, in 1860, to Mr. Lucius Briggs, the resident



Wm. Goswami

manager of the mills, which he retained till 1883. The plant was soon greatly enlarged, old mills were brought together by new connections, new mills were erected, the water power more fully developed, and the productive capacity of the whole was greatly increased. In 1864 Doctor Grosvenor bought what was known as the "Fisherville Property," and certain adjoining lands to the north of it, extending to Wilsonville, for the prospective advantages which they offered. In 1866 the Masonville Company changed its name to Grosvenor Dale Company, its village being from that time known as Grosvenor Dale, and the Fisherville Company took the name of North Grosvenor Dale Company, with a corresponding change in the name of its village. Two years later the two companies were united, and now bear the common name of Grosvenor Dale Company. New mills have been built and great changes have been made in the condition of both these properties. Additional water power has been acquired and steam power has been superadded. A large reservoir has been created, with dykes and embankments of great solidity and strength, and tenements have been constructed for the operatives employed by the company. The entire property now bearing its name extends over a tract of four miles in length in the valley of the French river, a branch of the Quinebaug. The original mills of which he became the owner in 1854 then contained 7,500 spindles and 180 looms. For the past three years they have had 88,176 spindles and 2,357 looms, the spindles having been reduced in number without diminution of product, in consequence of improvements in their make.

From his settlement in Providence in 1837, Doctor Grosvenor's life had been almost constantly devoted to active business. The change from professional pursuits to the pursuits of trade is a critical event in the life of any man. With him it had led to almost uninterrupted success. He began his new occupation by giving constant attention to its daily demands, and by making himself master of the principles and methods by which it was to be conducted. In doing this his professional experience may not have been without its advantages. It had formed in him the habit of careful attention to the details involved in the work in which he was engaged, and had taught him to guard against surprises in the condition of markets and the movements of trade. It may thus have done its part to secure the success which

he continued to have for the period of forty years almost without drawback or interruption.

His first period of leisure was taken in the year 1860, when, for the benefit of Mrs. Grosvenor's health, he accompanied her with his elder children on a visit to Europe. The absence was greatly beneficial to them all, and would have been prolonged had it not been for the anxieties and sorrows occasioned by the civil war, which began in the following year. The daily tidings of battle and slaughter, and the spectacle of the two great sections of the republic at war with each other, were doubly distressing to loyal citizens away from their country. He came home early in 1862, as did so many others from every part of the world, to do whatever might be in his power in the service of the country, and especially to be as near as possible to the exciting and distressing scenes which were then engrossing public attention.

On his return he immediately connected himself with the patriotic services which were already in progress in Rhode Island. In the following year he was chosen a senator from the town of North Providence, where he had resided since 1849, and he immediately engaged in all the movements that depended in any way on the action of the legislature. He was made a member of the legislative committee on finance, and his careful judgment and well-known determination as a citizen of large resources, made him an authority in the financial questions before that body. The whole energy and strength of the state were then enlisted in the service of the country. Taxes were levied in amounts beyond all precedent, and Rhode Island was ready to make every exertion and every sacrifice which the crisis might demand. In promoting all these movements the senator from North Providence was actively engaged during his period of service.

In 1866 he was again chosen to the senate. The war was now ended and the legislature of the state was occupied with new questions, the chief of which were how to maintain the public credit and pay the public debts, which had swollen to large proportions. In addition to these matters of finance were questions as to how the legislature could best provide for those who had been disabled in the war, and how it could best honor the memories of those who had fallen in its battles. In the deliberations and discussions relating to these he took a very active part, and



F M Messenger

did much in shaping the measures that were adopted. He was a member not only of the finance committee, but also of the joint committee of both houses appointed to select a suitable site for "a monument to the memory of the officers and men from Rhode Island, either in the army or the navy of the United States, who lost their lives in the service of the United States during the late rebellion," and to procure designs and estimates for the monument. It was through the agency of this committee that the "Soldiers' Monument" was erected, which now stands in Exchange Place in Providence.

As has been mentioned, he became a resident of North Providence in 1849, having at that time built as the home of his family an attractive mansion, on a farm belonging to Mrs. Grosvenor, not far north of the city line and now contained within it. In 1872 he removed to the house which he had bought on Prospect street, in which he passed the remaining years of his life. Long before this date he had given up the immediate care of the large business of the Grosvenor Dale Company to his two sons, Mr. William Grosvenor, Jr., the managing agent in Providence, and Mr. James B. M. Grosvenor, the selling agent in New York. Soon after his early settlement in Providence he had become connected with the congregation of Grace Church. He was for several years a member of its vestry, and was also an active and most helpful member of the committee for the erection of its beautiful and costly house of worship on Westminster street. He was fond of society and dispensed a generous hospitality, and thus kept alive his interest in the new generations which were taking the place of that to which he belonged. His constitution was always robust, and at the age of seventy-eight years he retained his powers, both of body and mind, almost unimpaired. His death took place with very slight premonition, August 10th, 1888, at Maplewood, New Hampshire, whither he had gone for a brief season of summer recreation. It was occasioned by an acute and sudden affection of the heart and the lungs.

This sketch was prepared for the proceedings of the Rhode Island Historical Society, published in 1889.

FRANK M. MESSENGER.—Samuel Messenger, the grandfather of Frank M. Messenger, married Lavina Blake, of Wrentham, Massachusetts. Their children were five sons and five daughters, of whom Silas was born in Stoddard, New Hampshire, and

during his active life was both a farmer and a house carpenter in his native place. He married Arvilla, daughter of Isaac Copeland, of the same town. Their children were: Mary, Alma, Erskine, Addison, Edson Winslow, Henry E., George B., Alice C., Frank M. and Helen A., of whom three are deceased—Addison, whose death occurred while a soldier in the late war; George B., who died in childhood, and Helen A., at the age of nine years.

Frank M. Messenger was born on the 3d of April, 1852, in Stoddard, New Hampshire, where, until the age of fourteen, he remained upon his father's farm, meanwhile attending the neighboring school for two terms each year. Removing with his parents to Munsonville, New Hampshire, he sought employment in a chair factory, and there continued until the age of sixteen, meanwhile pursuing his studies during intervals of leisure. He next found employment in a cotton factory, and later spent a year as clerk in Norway, Maine. After a period of work in the chair factory a second time, he at nineteen accepted an engagement as card grinder in a cotton factory at Winchendon, Massachusetts, and was soon promoted to second overseer in the same department. Mr. Messenger next removed to Manchester, New Hampshire, in the employ of the Amoskeag Company, and on leaving the latter place returned to Munsonville in the capacity of overseer. He then located successively in Shirley, Waltham and Newton, all in Massachusetts, as overseer, and finally settled in Manchaug, in the same state, remaining four years, and receiving promotion while there to the position of overseer of the carding and spinning departments. He at the expiration of this time returned to Shirley as superintendent of the Phoenix & Fredonia Mills. Mr. Messenger, in November, 1884, accepted the position of superintendent of the Grosvenor Dale Mills, and in January, 1887, was made agent of all the mills owned by the Grosvenor Dale Company, which responsible position he now fills. These mills, under his successful management, have been enlarged, and the increase in their capacity may be fully estimated at twenty-five per cent. A more detailed description of the industry will be found elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. Messenger is in politics a staunch republican, and while actively interested in affairs connected with both state and county, has declined all tenders of office. He is one of the board of directors of the Thompson National Bank. He is connected with Fredonia Lodge of Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and



W. W. Freston & Co. N.Y.

Geo. J. Murdock



D. Thurston Hurdock

is a member of the Baptist church of Manchaug, Massachusetts, having been for three years superintendent of its Sunday school. Mr. Messenger was married February 3d, 1874, to Eliza J., daughter of John and Sarah Smith, of Winchendon, Massachusetts, who died the following year. He was again married May 13th, 1879, to Mary A., daughter of John and Mary Young, of Newton, Massachusetts. Their children are Frank M., Mabel W. and Don E.

GEORGE TAFT MURDOCK.—Elisha Murdock, the grandfather of George Taft Murdock, was a prosperous farmer in the town of Uxbridge, Mass. His wife, a Miss Chapin, became the mother of several children, of whom Fuller Murdock, one of their sons, spent his life in Uxbridge, his native town. He married Esther, daughter of James Taft, of Uxbridge. The children of this union were: Philina, born in 1807; Abbie Eliza, in 1808; Moses Taft, in 1810; John, in 1812; Charles, in 1815; Caleb, in 1817; George Taft, March 18th, 1819; Harriet, in 1821; Chapin, in 1823, and Mary Ann, in 1825.

The fifth son of this number, George Taft Murdock, is a native of Uxbridge, where, after a period of early youth devoted to school, he at the age of twelve years began those habits of industry which laid the foundation for future success. Entering a woolen factory he was assigned to the task of piecing rolls and thus acquired by his own exertion sufficient means to defray the expenses of his education at the academy at Uxbridge, and at Plymouth, N. H. At the age of twenty-four he embarked with a partner in mercantile ventures in his native town, and continued for six years to conduct a profitable business. Mr. Murdock then engaged in the manufacture of satinets at Millbury, Mass., and at Seaconnet Point, R. I., continuing four years in these respective localities. Removing to Worcester, Mass., in 1861, he established the firm of Curtis & Murdock, manufacturers of woolen goods. In 1865 he purchased the present mills at New Boston, meanwhile retaining his residence in Worcester until 1879, when the former place became his home. The property was at this time in a dilapidated condition, and the moral sentiment of the hamlet not such as to make New Boston a desirable abode. Mr. Murdock and his son, the junior partner of the firm, by their enterprise and determination speedily created a revolution in both respects. The mills were enlarged, new buildings of brick erected, and the community infused with a

spirit of temperance and morality which greatly changed the character of the place. The mills give employment to nearly one hundred operatives who are engaged in the manufacture of cotton warp goods, sold through agents in New York and Boston.

Mr. Murdock is in his political alliances a republican. He was in 1862 a member of the city council of Worcester, and in 1884 represented his town in the Connecticut house of representatives, being assigned to the committee on school fund. He is a strong advocate of the cause of temperance, and a supporter of the doctrines of Christianity. Through his efforts and those of his son a large public hall was built in New Boston in which divine service is regularly held. Mr. Murdock was in 1845 married to Abbie A., daughter of Alvin Robinson, of Mansfield, Mass. Their children are a son, George Thurston, and a daughter, Lizzie G., deceased wife of Horace E. Bigelow.

GEORGE THURSTON MURDOCK, the only son of George Taft and Abbie A. Murdock, who was born July 4th, 1846, in Uxbridge, Mass., at the age of twelve years removed with his parents to Millbury, and later to Worcester in the same state. His education was received at the Worcester and Wilbraham Academies, after which he entered the finishing room of the mills in the former place, and thus became familiar with the first principles of manufacturing. Coming later to New Boston, he filled the position of accountant until 1866, and then assumed the superintendence of the mills. Two years later he succeeded to the interest of a former partner, who had meanwhile retired. He ultimately became an equal partner, and for many years during his father's residence in Worcester, assumed almost the entire oversight of the business, the details of which are still managed by him.

Mr. Murdock has been a co-worker with his father in his efforts to build up and improve the hamlet of New Boston, much of the active labor of which has been performed by him personally. He has been active in both town and county politics, and is at present one of the town committee. He represented his constituents in the state legislature in 1878, and served on the committees on manufactures and milage. Mr. Murdock was, on the 22d of June, 1869, married to Arrilla R., daughter of Charles D. Thayer, of New Boston. They have one daughter, Mabel Florence, born December 13th, 1876.

FRANKLIN NICHOLS, one of the well-known business men and leading bankers in Connecticut, was born in Thompson, Conn., August 11th, 1805. His boyhood was passed in his native town, sharing the advantages of the schools of those days. At an early age he commenced business for himself, in the improvement of extensive farming lands inherited from his father, which honorable vocation he continued with an older brother until May, 1840, when he removed to Norwich and became a member of the firm of Nichols & Eddy, wholesale grocers. The firm subsequently changed to Nichols & Evans, and later to Nichols, Evans & Almy. In 1844 Mr. Nichols retired from the firm and engaged in the cotton business in company with the late Leonard Ballou. He, however, remained in this business but about two years, and then engaged in banking operations.

In the spring of 1833 he assisted in obtaining the charter for the Thompson Bank, which was organized in the fall of the same year with eleven directors, all of whom are deceased except himself. He has been prominently identified with the Thames Bank since 1846. He was chosen president in 1851, and has officiated in that capacity to the present time. He has outlived all then associated with him in the board of directors. Mr. Nichols has been a trustee in the Norwich Savings Society since 1851 and its president since 1879. He is the only survivor of the forty trustees in the board at the time of his election. He was also one of the incorporators of the Thames Loan and Trust Company in 1869, and for several years its president. He was chosen a director in the Gas Company upon its organization, and is now the president and only surviving member of the original board of directors. He assisted in the organization of the Bank of Mutual Redemption in Boston, and in this institution also he is the only original member left in the board. Mr. Nichols was also a director in the Norwich & Worcester railroad.

October 17th, 1839, he united in marriage with Hannah T. Fairfield, a native of Pomfret, Conn., and the family consisted of one child, a son, Franklin Nichols, deceased.

BENJAMIN F. PHIPPS.—Deacon Jason Phipps was at an early day an extensive landholder and farmer in Thompson parish, as also a justice of the peace, who exercised his prerogative with an inflexible hand. His son Jason, a soldier of the revolution, married Mary Healy, of Dudley, Mass., whose children were: Peyton Randolph, Salem T., Jason, Polly, Hannah, Mary Ann, Rebecca

and Persis. Mr. Phipps resided in Thompson, where he became the owner of much valuable land. His son, Captain Peyton Randolph, was born July 29th, 1789, in the same town, and spent his life as a farmer. He also bore an active part in the militia, of which he was captain, and served in the war of 1812, for which his widow drew a pension. He was on the 26th of May, 1814, married to Clarissa, daughter of Edward Davis, of Dudley, Mass. Their children are eleven in number, as follows: Clarissa D., Benjamin F., Edward D., Lucretia H., Abigail D., William R., Albigence W. (deceased), Lydia R., Zeruiah, Albigence W., and Samuel H. On the 25th of October, 1831, Mr. Phipps was again married to Harriet Davis, sister to his first wife. His death occurred February 2d, 1843.

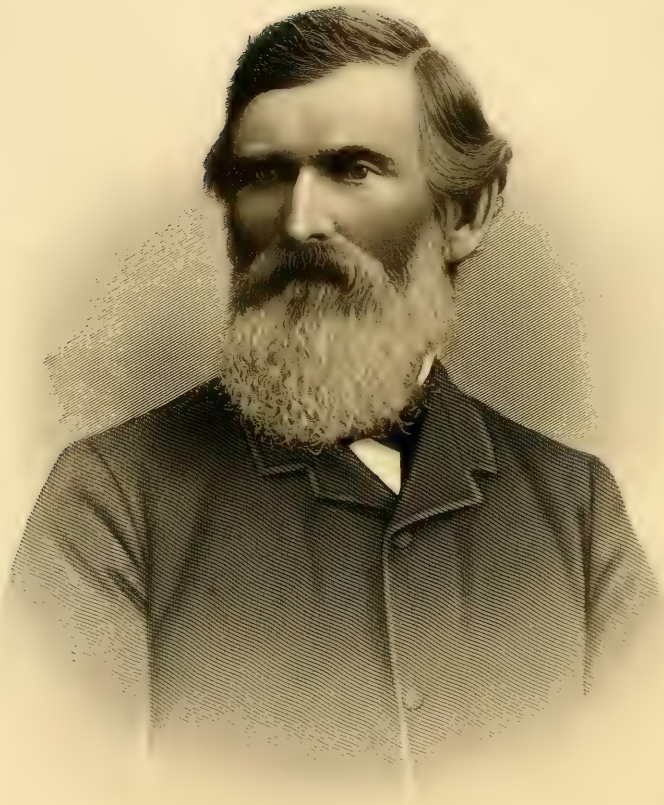
Benjamin F. Phipps was born January 30th, 1816, on the homestead farm which is his present residence. Here his whole life has been spent in the healthful pursuits connected with agriculture. His opportunities for education were confined to a brief period at the neighboring public school, and his time, until twenty-one, was given to his father, who in addition to his farm employments was engaged in teaming between that point and Providence. He was afterward for several years employed on the farm and elsewhere in the neighborhood, finally assuming the management of the property on behalf of the heirs, on the decease of his father.

Mr. Phipps by his industry and excellent care of the property thus afforded a home to the family, and finally purchased the farm. He has greatly improved the land, added new buildings from time to time, and made his home one of the most desirable in that portion of the town, his daily labor being connected with the farm and its productions. He has always been identified in politics with either the whig or republican party, and filled such local offices as selectman, assessor, surveyor, etc. He is often called upon to act as executor, trustee and appraiser, and to fill various offices of trust. He worships with the Union Congregation, of New Boston, though in his faith a Universalist. Mr. Phipps on the 20th of March, 1849, married Mary L., daughter of Charles and Emily Childs, of Woodstock. Their children are two sons, Charles P. and George F., and a daughter, Mary E., who died in childhood. Charles P., who resides in Southbridge, Mass., married Sarah King of Thompson, and has one child, Maud Gladys.



1872

Benj. T. Phipps



W. H. P. & S. N. Y.

Chas. D. Thayer

CHARLES D. THAYER.—John and Dacy Thayer were the grandparents of the subject of this biography. Their son John married Ruth Mowery and settled in East Douglas. The children of this marriage were: Mowery, born April 27th, 1811; Charles D., December 26th, 1813; Arrilla, August 9th, 1815.

Charles D., the second son, is a native of Douglas, Massachusetts, where he enjoyed the advantages of the public schools, and afterward continued his studies at the Oxford and Uxbridge high schools. He then taught for several terms, and afterward began his business career as a clerk, first at Oxford and then at New Boston. This sedentary life, however, was not to his taste, and he resolved to make farming the vocation of his life. He assumed charge of his father's farm in New Boston, managed it with success during the latter's lifetime, and on his death received a deed of the property, the elder son also enjoying a like inheritance. Mr. Thayer remained on this farm from 1838 until 1869, when his present home near New Boston was purchased. Here he has since continued the employments of an agriculturist.

His business life has been one of integrity and principle. This fact, together with experience and judgment, have rendered his services much sought as trustee and executor. He was formerly a director of the Thompson National Bank. A democrat in his political views, he has served as assessor, selectman, and in other offices, and received the nomination as candidate for the state legislature, but yielded to the superior strength of the opposing party. Mr. Thayer married November 12th, 1843, Lucy E., daughter of David Nichols, of Thompson. Their children are: David N., born December 10th, 1844; John M., March 16th, 1847; Arrilla R., February 4th, 1850; and Charles F., November 6th, 1852. Charles F. married Mary Hewitt, of Preston, Connecticut. David N. is a resident of New York, and his brothers are successful lawyers in Norwich, Connecticut.

MARCUS F. TOWNE.—David Towne, the grandfather of Marcus F. Towne, married Lucy Upham. Their children were two sons and two daughters, of whom George, born in Thompson, February 18th, 1794, married Sally, daughter of Rufus Tyler. The children of this marriage were: Lucy, who died in youth; Rufus T., Marcus F., Noadiah W. and Lucy U., wife of Joseph S. Perry.

Marcus F. Towne was born June 21st, 1824, on the farm in Thompson, where his whole life, with the exception of a single

year, has been spent. He attended the common school, and for a short period the high school, after which his attention was given to farming. He also became proficient as a blacksmith, and combined this with his other duties. Mr. Towne entered into a co-partnership with his father, and while farming operated a thresher. He also did more or less teaming. Receiving before his father's death a deed of a portion of the farm, he subsequently added to this a valuable tract by purchase. He also owns fifty acres in Woodstock, which is used as a pasture land for the fattening of beef for the market.

Mr. Towne is a director of the Thompson Savings Bank. He has been for many years director and for two years president of the Woodstock Agricultural Society. He is in politics a republican, was for the years 1873 and 1884 a member of the Connecticut house of representatives, has been for seven years a selectman, and for a long period on the school district committee. He has been for thirty-two years an active, exemplary and useful member of the Congregational church of Thompson, and a portion of that time one of its deacons. He was November 29th, 1848, married to Lucy Ann, daughter of Jason Wakefield, of the same town. Their only child, a son, died in his fourteenth year. He was again married July 6th, 1856, to Mary J., daughter of Paul Kinney, of Union, Connecticut. Their children are Lucy A., George V. and Adfer M.

AARON WHITE died at Quinebaug, in the town of Thompson, April 15th, 1886, aged 87 years and six months. He was born in Boylston, Mass., October 8th, 1798, and was the eldest of ten children, seven sons and three daughters, of Aaron and Mary White.

His ancestry were of the early puritan settlers of Eastern Massachusetts, and among them on the side of his mother, were the Adams' of Boston, her grandmother being a sister of Governor Samuel Adams, a distinguished patriot of the revolution. His father kept a country store, cultivated an adjoining farm, was a leading man in town affairs, town clerk for twenty-two years, many years a member of the board of selectmen, and repeatedly a representative to the legislature.

The father having determined to give his son, Aaron, Jr., the advantages of a liberal education, sent him to the academies in New Salem and Leicester, and in his fourteenth year the boy entered Harvard, graduating in the class of 1817.



Marcus J. Towne

Having concluded to establish himself in the practice of law in Rhode Island, Mr. White after a brief period of study in the offices of General George L. Barnes, of Woonsocket, in Smithfield, and of the late Judge Thomas Burgess, of Providence, was admitted to the bar of Rhode Island, at Providence, at the September term of the supreme court, 1820—a little under twenty-two years of age, and opened his office at Cumberland Hill, in the town of Cumberland.

A mail route was laid out over Cumberland Hill, and the office of postmaster there was held by him until he removed to Woonsocket Falls in 1829.

As he had the reputation of being a careful bank manager, he was invited in 1829 to take charge of a new bank at Woonsocket Falls, as cashier and one of the directors. Without relinquishing his law practice he accepted the appointment, and continued in charge of the bank for a few years.

Esquire White became an ardent adherent of Governor Dorr, personally and politically, and chief adviser in all matters touching political subjects and the personal affairs of his friend the governor, therefore he was compelled to leave Rhode Island in 1842 and he came to New Boston.

Mr. White at first took up his abode in this obscure village, in a brick building, which at that time was the village store, and the grandest building in the vicinity. He removed not long afterward to Barnes' tavern, on the old Boston and Hartford turnpike. Here he made the acquaintance of a daughter of Mr. Alfred Barnes, and a mutual attachment was formed, resulting in their marriage in 1843. To this event was due his change of abode from Rhode Island to Connecticut, his wife dying when his son was born. The son now lives on a farm in Grafton, Mass. He is unmarried.

Mr. White in the latter years of his life took up the subject of numismatics, the collection and study of coins. The United States government in 1857 discontinued the coinage of copper cents, substituting at first the nickel cent, and a few years afterward, the bronze one and two cent pieces as at present used. This furnished Mr. White a rare opportunity for augmenting his collections, especially of the cheaper coins, and he improved it to a greater extent, probably, than any other person in the United States. In his legal practice he spared no effort to have his clients' business done in the best and most thorough manner, yet

his charges for services rendered were extremely moderate. A teetotaler in principle and practice, he would not tolerate the use of alcoholic drink as a beverage by any one in his employment.

Mr. White was possessed of considerable real estate in this vicinity, and although reported rich, the actual value of his whole estate, real and personal, is not known, and was probably much exaggerated in popular opinions. After Mr. White's death, his brother shipped from the station at Quinebaug $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons of penies, the value of which would be about \$8,000.

Mr. White after graduating from college, spent a year and upward as a school teacher, first in Roxbury, now Boston Highlands, and afterward in the city of Vergennes, Vt. He then commenced the study of law in Middlebury, Vt., in the office of Horatio Seymour, afterward governor and senator in congress from Vermont.

In his will Mr. White gave directions for his burial on a knoll on the northerly side of the railroad, just over the boundary line of Massachusetts, in the town of Dudley. The knoll is shaded with pines, transplanted when small seedlings by Mr. White about forty years ago. After giving minute instructions for a monument to be erected at his grave, he directs the following epitaph written by him January 1st, 1844, to be engraved on the stone :

To the memory of Aaron White, Son of Aaron and Mary White, born October 8th, 1798, died—

HIC
IN EXILIO PROFUGUS,
HUMANUM GENTES JUS DEFENDENS
ET HOSPITIUM ET AMOREM,
ET DOMUM ET SEPULCHRUM
INVENI.
—
HERE
DRIVEN INTO EXILE,
WHILE DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF MAN,
I FOUND
HOSPITALITY AND LOVE,
A HOME AND A SEPULCHRE.

CHAPTER XXX.

THE TOWN OF PUTNAM.

Incorporation and General Description.—Early History.—First Settlers.—West of the Quinebaug.—The South Neighborhood.—Early Improvement of Water Privileges.—Roads and Bridges.—The Stone Mills.—Early Homestead Residents.—The French War.—The Revolution.—After the War.—Cargill's Mills.—Quinebaug High Falls.—Educational and Religious.—Killingly Hill.—Beginning of Cotton Manufacturing.—Pomfret Factory.—During the War of 1812.—Residents and Managers of the Factory.—Rhodesville.—Building up of Additional Factories.—Rival and Conflicting Interests of Three Adjoining Towns.—Various Propositions and Controversy.—Organization of the new Town of Putnam.

THE township of Putnam, incorporated in 1855, was made up from parts of Thompson, Killingly and Pomfret. The Quinebaug river, with its great falls in the heart of the village, is its most distinctive physical feature, its main source of life and business prosperity. Manufacturing enterprise, aided by railroads, built up a flourishing village. This village demanded expansion and the liberty to manage its own affairs, and after a desperate struggle obtained town privileges, taking in as much surrounding territory as was needful to give it corporate standing, and by running its south boundary line obliquely, cutting off barren land eastward. This funnel-like conformation of the projected town excited much ridicule during the contest, and it is said that its pictorial presentation before the legislature had much influence in procuring the rejection of the early petitions. But while the manufacturing interests of the town are strongly dominant, Putnam is by no means deficient in agricultural resources. With improved culture and immediate market, farming has made great advances. Dairying and market gardening are remunerative industries. There are many good farms in the vicinity of the valley and in the former South Neighborhood. The Assawaga or Five Mile river in the east of the town furnishes a number of mill privileges. The recent

discovery and utilizing of the Aspinock Mineral Spring at Putnam Heights is likely to prove of much benefit to this section.

Though Putnam is one of the youngest towns in Windham county, and is pre-eminently a growth of modern civilization, its roots reach far backward. The High Falls were noted far back in aboriginal days. The surrounding valley was a favorite resort of the red man long before Lieutenant John Sabin crossed the Woodstock line into the wilderness of Connecticut. An Indian trail ran southeast from the falls toward Rhode Island before Peter Aspinwall cut his way through the woods to make a path to Providence. The "Joseph Cady farm," east of Putnam village (now owned by Mr. Eli Davis), was noted for producing a remarkable variety and quantity of medicinal herbs and roots, much used by the "medicine men" of the Indians. It is traditionally reported that Indians came from a great distance to gather these herbs, and that in consequence this locality was made a sacred haven, where no bloodshed was lawful, and tribal foes might meet in safety. The Falls were noted for their remarkable facilities for fishing, especially when shad and salmon were trying to ascend them.

The first known settler within the limits of the present Putnam was Richard Evans of Rehoboth, who purchased for twenty pounds a grant of wild land laid out to Reverend James Pierpont, of New Haven, and is described in 1693, "as resident of said granted premises." The farm was further described as bounded by wilderness and about three miles from Woodstock. Very little can be learned of this first settler east of the Quinebaug, except the fact that he occupied the farm now owned by Mr. William Holland, and that in about twenty years he and his son Richard were in possession of "two tenement of housen, barns, orchards, tanning pits and fulling mill," all testifying strongly to their thrift and industry.

Lietenant Peter Aspinwall, of Woodstock, was apparently second on the field, and the first resident within the bounds of the present Putnam village. Sent by Woodstock, in 1691, "to make a way unto the cedar swamp, on the other side of the Quinebaug, for a road to Providence," during the progress of the work he removed his residence to the valley, but not probably until the close of the Indian war of 1695-98, and his marriage to the widow of John Leavens. Lieutenant Aspinwall was a very prominent man in Woodstock, one of its original pioneers and settlers.

He was also very active in military affairs, serving as scout and ranger during the troublesome warfare. Remaining a bachelor till somewhat late in life, he was apparently unfortunate in his matrimonial venture, "the widow and her sons keeping him low," according to the Aspinwall chronicle. These step-sons, particularly James and Joseph Leavens, were the first business men within Putnam limits, being employed by James Corbin, trader at Woodstock, to collect tar for Boston market. It was while engaged in this service that Joseph, the younger brother, received a wound in the thumb from a rattlesnake, and only saved his life by immediate amputation. Rattlesnake hill, near Five Mile river, "half a mile long and a hundred rods broad," was the scene of this adventure, and was one of the early land purchases of the brothers. James Leavens also owned a mill privilege on Five Mile river, believed to be the site of Hawkins' mills, and carried on the first saw mill east of the Quinebaug.

The Providence road cut by Peter Aspinwall wound around the base of Killingly hill to this mill, and accommodated customers. The Assawaga received its English name from the fact that the first land laid out upon it was "supposed to be about five miles from Woodstock," the only settlement in the section. Peter Aspinwall's farm was south of the Providence road, bordering on the Quinebaug. Its site can be identified by the old burying ground, its north or northeast extremity, which he gave to the town of Killingly.

The first settlers north of the Providence road were the inevitable "three brothers" of all New England settlements—Nicholas, Daniel and Joseph Cady, from Groton, Mass., soon after 1700. Nicholas settled first north of Killingly hill, but removed to a fine farm on Whetstone brook. His brother Joseph purchased the wilderness land held in such repute by the Indians, a mile east of the Quinebaug. He was a man of great strength and prowess, much respected by the Indians, able it was said to beat their strongest warriors in wrestling. A bunch of the sacred herbs, suspended over his cabin door, served as an amulet against assault or surprise. As soon as circumstances warranted Captain Cady erected the large house still standing in tolerable preservation, and owned by Mr. Eli Davis. It was considered an old house in 1774, when after the demise of the second Joseph Cady it was sold to Lieutenant-Governor Sessions, of Rhode Island. Daniel Cady's homestead was north of Joseph's, and after

a few years passed into the hands of William Larned, who built a large house near the angle of the roads, whose frame forms part of the present residence of Mr. William Plummer. These two old houses merit commemoration as the oldest now standing within the limits of Putnam village, and connected with its early settlement.

One of the original owners of Killingly hill was John Allen, of Marlborough, Mass., a man of means with sons to settle in life. Among his purchases was a very valuable interval, comprising 160 acres upon the Quinebaug, "near a pair of falls, fifty rods above the mouth of Mill river, extending up stream to a crook of the river, near the mouth of a small brook running into the river" (east side). All the above settlers purchased their land before Killingly was made a town, and called themselves in their several land deeds, inhabitants of *Aspinock*, near the Quinebaug. This picturesque name seems to have been applied to the valley east of the river from the Cady settlements to Lake Mashapaug, but was laid aside after Killingly was organized in 1708. Its derivation and signification are still doubtful.

West side the Quinebaug the first settler was Captain John Sabin. Although his fine old mansion was just outside the line dividing Putnam from Pomfret, yet his ownership of the land and intimate connection with the first settlement of the Quinebaug gives him a prominent place among Putnam notables. His settlement even preceded that of Richard Evans, dating back to 1691, and his services during the subsequent Indian wars, by maintaining fortifications upon the frontier and restraining and "subsisting" the Indians, were publicly recognized by Massachusetts and Connecticut governments. He was made lieutenant of Woodstock's first military company, captain of Pomfret's first company and sergeant-major of Windham county's first troop of horse. He was also Pomfret's first representative to general court and one of the most prominent and respected citizens of Windham county. Owning much land in the valley, many building sites passed to his sons, furnishing three or four "old Sabin Houses" within the limits of Putnam. His own historic mansion, demolished with great labor and difficulty by Mr. William I. Bartholomew in 1835, was just south of Woodstock line. This homestead descended to his son Noah. His son John adopted the medical profession and settled in Franklin, Conn. His son, Lieutenant Hezekiah Sabin, was the first resident pro-

prietor of Thompson hill. His daughter Judith married Joseph Leavens, of Killingly, receiving for her marriage portion a beautiful farm upon Lake Mashapaug.

Captain John Sabin is most intimately connected with Putnam as the builder of the first bridge over the Quinebaug below the High Falls, in 1722. For more than twenty years Peter Aspinwall had besought the assembly for liberty to build a bridge at this point, showing that the want of such convenience had been a grievous burden and affliction to travelers and himself, the river being exceedingly high and swift and not always fordable. Leading citizens of Pomfret reiterated the complaint, that the Quinebaug was at some seasons impassable, and that persons had endangered their lives in trying to pass, but the assembly turned a deaf ear to all petitions for relief. Captain Sabin, with his usual energy, threw himself into the breach, and with his sons' aid built a good, substantial bridge, costing £120, and then called upon the government for reimbursement. The committee sent to inspect reported the bridge built in suitable place, out of danger of being carried away by floods or ice, the height of bridge being above any flood yet known by any men living there; thought it would be very serviceable to a great part of the government in traveling to Boston, being at least ten miles the nearest way according to their judgment. Three hundred acres of land on the east side of the Connecticut river were accordingly granted, on condition of keeping the bridge in repair "fourteen years next coming."

The second settler within the present limits of Putnam village was Jonathan Eaton, of Dedham, who in 1703 bought land on both sides of the Quinebaug, at what was called the Upper Falls, now improved by the Putnam Manufacturing Company. His home was on the west side of the river, in what was then known as "a Peculiar," viz., a strip of land unassigned to any town. Even Killingly, which exercised rights in the territory of Thompson long before it was legally assigned to her, levied no taxes west side the river. Being thus cut off from civil relations, we can learn little of this early settler excepting the fact that, though not compelled by law, he carried his numerous children to be duly baptized in Woodstock meeting house, and that he was elected deacon of the church in Thompson parish. With two traveled roads near his dwelling, he probably exercised the privilege of entertaining travelers. Above the Upper

Falls the Quinebaug was easily forded in low water, and an Indian trail trodden out in time to a bridle path connected his establishment with the Cady settlement. The mill privilege owned by Deacon Eaton was improved by his sons, at a much later date.

The third family within the bounds of Putnam village was probably that of Samuel Perrin, who, with Peter Aspinwall and Benjamin Griggs, secured a deed of land from Major James Fitch in 1703, both sides the Quinebaug, below its junction with Mill brook. According to tradition, this land was purchased of the Indians, and it seems improbable that so valuable a tract should have been sold at so low a figure by a veteran land jobber unless there had been a prior claim upon it. Aspinwall, as we have seen, took the land east of the river; Griggs sold his share to Samuel Paine. The Perrin farm was retained in the family for several generations. How soon Samuel Perrin took possession of this purchase is not apparent, as he still retained his Woodstock residence, but soon after 1714 he built the well known "old Perrin House," so familiar to older residents of this section. It was probably first cultivated by his younger brother David, who died early, unmarried, and was made over to his son, Ensign Samuel Perrin, after his marriage to Dorothy Morris in 1724.

During this period many others had gathered in the South Neighborhood and eastward on the Assawaga. James Leavens' saw mill passed into the hands of Isaac and John Cutler, of Lexington, Mass. The former had many sons settling in that vicinity, building gambrel roofed houses, one of which still stands, "the old Cutler House," near the Rhode Island line. John Cutler died early, leaving numerous children. Part of his original farm was lost by a re-settlement of the above line, and his son Hezekiah removed to the vicinity of Killingly hill. The first meeting house in Killingly was built a little south of this hill, near the Providence road, in 1715, and encouraged settlement in that vicinity. The first minister, Reverend John Fisk, had his residence west of the hill.

Putnam's first settler, Richard Evans, had now removed, and his home farm was occupied by Simon Bryant, of Braintree, who purchased house, barn, orchard, tanning pits, etc., in 1712. His oldest daughter, Hannah, married William Larned in 1715, and their son Simon succeeded to the Evans farm, the first land laid

out east of the Quinebaug in this section, now owned by Mr. W. R. Holland. Thomas Whitmore settled north of Simon Bryant at an early date, on the farm now improved by Mr. G. W. Whittlesy. George Blanchard occupied land southward now held by Mr. William Converse. Michael Felshaw secured the farm still southward, reaching to the brow of Killingly hill. The farm now improved by the family of the late J. O. Fox was first owned by James Wilson. Near him was the residence of Jonathan Hughes, whose son Edmond set out the "Great Elm," so famous in revolutionary annals. John Johnson's homestead was upon the site of the present residence of Mr. James Arnold. Samüel Lee purchased the northern part of what is now known as Parks hill, and built the house afterward occupied by Deacon Lusher Gay and his descendants. He died before 1730, at which date his widow, Mary Lee, was licensed to keep a house of public entertainment.

A granddaughter of Captain Joseph Cady, who afterward married Deacon Gay, delighted in old age to tell of "a puppet show" which she attended at this public house when she was six years old, viz., in 1731. There were many little girls and boys growing up in the vicinity at that date. Deacon Eaton had eight or nine, Simon Bryant had seven daughters, William Larned seven sons, Joseph Leavens had eight daughters and three sons, the Cady and Lee children could hardly be numbered, and it is pleasant to know that they had this evening's entertainment. Up to this date there is no evidence that they even had the privilege of attending school, but were probably taught at home by fathers and mothers. The boys of the neighborhood enjoyed special privileges in fishing, the Quinebaug being famous for shad, salmon and lamprey eels. The latter were caught in ingeniously constructed weirs or "eel-pots;" suckers were speared by torchlight. The Indians were very skillful fishermen, and initiated their favorites into some of the mysteries of their art. An "Indian girl" was included in the inventory of Captain John Sabin's possessions. An Indian family occupied a wigwam beside a huge boulder near the site of the Davis ice house, self-elected tributaries to Captain Cady, who had rescued them from some great peril. Both he and Captain Sabin were greatly respected by their Indian neighbors. An old squaw thus expressed her emotion, upon the return of the former from military service: "O Massa Cady, I glad to see you! I

so glad if I had a whole pint of rum I drink it all down myself." Excessive indulgence in the use of cider, and any other liquor they could lay hands on, accelerated the dying out of these natives. Old Quaco, the last of his race, was tenderly cared for down to his last hours by the Perrin family.

In 1730 the privilege of the Great Falls was utilized by David Howe of Mendon, clothier, who purchased the point of land between the Quinebaug and Mill rivers, beginning forty rods above the falls, from Captain John Sabin and his son Noah. A dwelling house, grist mill, malt house and dye house were soon set up and in motion, accommodating his own neighborhood and adjacent parts of Pomfret and Killingly. Thompson parish had now been incorporated, taking in all the east side residents north of the falls. Killingly hill was gaining new inhabitants. Increasing development called for more roads and better traveling facilities.

Putnam as a town has been seriously incommoded by the uncertain tenure of its roads. It has been exceedingly difficult to trace the roads of three distinct towns to their original layout. In several cases it has been made evident that there *was no* layout, but that in confirmation of the modern development theory the roads were slowly *evolved* from Indian trails and "trod out" paths. This is very notably true of the original east side road, between the Upper and High Falls, which must have existed as a trail or mode of communication from time immemorial. The road west side of the river was made, as we have seen, by order of the town of Woodstock, about 1700, crossing Mill river or Muddy brook just below Peter's brook, and thence southeast diagonally over the falls, past the old Killingly burying ground, and onward around the base of Killingly hill. In the deed describing Deacon Eaton's farm west of the Quinebaug, the Providence road, it is said "crosseth its southeast corner," and another road passed through his land, "formerly laid out from Hartford to Mendon." This road, laid out before 1700, must have run nearly north up the Quinebaug valley and connected with what was known as the Old Connecticut Path at the crossing below the site of the present New Boston, but it was probably not a common thoroughfare, as we find no other trace of it. It is altogether probable that there was a "trod out" road east of the river also, extending south to Plainfield and Norwich. As a matter of fact, we know that there has been such a valley road

as far back as can be traced, that the first surveyors of this wilderness land found a way to get there, and that a rude track had been trodden out and made passable before the actual settlement.

In consequence of the total lack of record of "Town Acts" in Killingly for more than twenty years after its organization, we are left in ignorance of its first attempts at road making. The country road, as it was called, leading from Plainfield to Boston, laid out by government before 1700, passed through Killingly, and was nearly identical with the north and south road now passing through the same section. It has been twice re-surveyed and laid out, but no change has been made in its general bearings. The first surveyors found it easier to run their line west of Killingly hill, but in the "perambulation of 1731" the road was made to ascend "to a heap of stones on a rock upon the hill," and so on over its summit. In 1721 a cart path from Pomfret to Providence was opened under the supervision of Nathaniel Sessions, crossing the Quinebaug over Sabin's bridge, and thence over the former road cut through by Aspinwall, making it passable for wheeled vehicles. The above roads are all that can be identified prior to the establishment of Howe's mills. Efforts were then made to increase accommodations. A private road or bridle path leading from the bridge to Perrin's farm and the Gary district was improved and made a public highway, and a bridge thrown over Mill river in 1732.

Sabin's bridge was reconstructed or thoroughly repaired by Samuel Cutler, a distant relative of Captain Isaac Cutler, who was now living at the north end of Killingly hill. He then petitioned the general court for forgiveness of country rates, license to keep a place of public entertainment, and for a committee to lay out a road from Sabin's bridge over Killingly hill, past his dwelling, at a place called "The Four-fanged Oak," and eastward to intersect with the Providence road, thereby preventing the long journey round the base of the hill. This new road he averred would be a great convenience to travellers, and indeed was "now travelled on but not yet laid out." His requests were all refused, but undiscouraged he applied to the town authorities, who in August, 1732, warned a meeting "to consider of altering the country road that goes through the town towards Providence at the west end, in order to meet a road laid out by the town of Pomfret, at David Howe's mills." The town voted

"not to alter the road," and thus it happens that the road leading from Putnam to the north end of the Heights, was left to evolve itself, not having been laid out by lawful powers. This persistent refusal may have been caused by the fact that "Sam Cutler" was not considered as sound as some of his neighbors and was inclined to speculation. He succeeded in obtaining release from rates for his services upon the bridge, but the "Four-fanged Oak Tavern" and highway passing thereby were not granted.

The petition of those honored town fathers, Captain Joseph Cady and Jonathan Eaton, for a better road to Thompson meeting house, met a very different reception. A committee was at once appointed to consider their needs and those of other church-goers. In point of fact they did little more than to establish roads already existing in a crude form, the town having voted "that every person that shall move to this town to have any way altered or removed, it shall be done at the petitioners' cost and charge." September 12th, 1737, the committee reported a road laid out, "beginning east end of the bridge over the Quinebaug, near Mr. David Howe's, thence extending along the path or road, leading from said bridge to Captain Cady's; thence northeast by pine trees and great rock, east of an old ditch in Mr. Simon Bryant's land, to a corner between Bryant's and William Larned's, thence in the same corner to the southeast corner of Larned's fence, keeping the path leading thence to John Lee's; thence to the brow of a hill of Deacon Eaton's land; thence over Hosmer's field into the road to Thompson meeting house," near the site of the present residence of Mr. George H. Nichols. This connection with the West Thompson road instead of the direct road from Killingly hill to Thompson, is an indirect testimony to the existence of the valley road previously referred to as passing near Deacon Eaton's. Hosmer owned land now in the vicinity of Mechanicsville. The road from Captain Cady's, "as trod," winding back nearly to the river, so as to accommodate William Larned, John Lee and Deacon Eaton, must have been laid nearly in the form of a horse shoe.

A bridle road with gates and bars was also allowed "as the path is trod" from Jonathan Hughes, near the country road, past the dwelling houses of John Pepper and Phinehas Lee to William Larned's; also a bridle road from "land of Simon Bryant to the country road from Plainfield to Oxford, upon the path

on which said Bryant usually travelleth from his own door to Thompson Meeting House." This bridle road is probably identical with the present road passing Mr. Holland's residence. The rapid growth of this neighborhood and the need of open access to Howe's mills transformed the first named bridle road in a few years. "March 4th, 1749, Voted, to allow and accept an open road from Capt. Daniels' bridge as the road is now trod along by William Larned's house and by Phinehas Lee's and Mr. Gay's, &c., into the country road by Edmond Hughes', three rods wide, excepting through Mr. Gay's land, where there is now a stone wall on both sides, and there it is to be but two rods wide, and if the wall must be moved to make it two rods wide the surveyors that mend the road are to move the wall, and it is to be understood that the men that own the land where the road is allowed and accepted appeared in the meeting and there declared that they would give the land for the said road two rods wide as is above mentioned, and the road was allowed and accepted upon those terms." This is the ancient road now passing over Parks hill and winding round to the brook near Mr. Olney's, and the moss-covered walls now tumbling into ruin are the same that Mr. Lusher Gay refused to remove in 1749.

Several changes had occurred at that date. In 1742 the Howe mills passed into the hands of Captain Nathaniel Daniels, together with dwelling house, barn, malt house, shop and the whole manufacturing stock of Quinebaug valley, viz., "ye conveniences of three coppers, two presses, one iron screw, two pairs shears, two iron bars, a blue pot, paper for pressing and sear-cloth for malting." Noah Sabin had succeeded to the mansion house and valley land of his father. Peter Aspinwall had disappeared from public life and was probably sleeping in his own grave yard, though no stone perpetuates his memory. Captain Joseph Cady was succeeded by his son Justice Joseph, a man of equal probity and influence, the richest man in the community, and, according to tradition, "the first man to own a coach." William Larned died in 1747, leaving his homestead to his son, Captain William, who sold the same to Isaac Parks, whose name still clings to the historic hill and neighborhood. Captain David Cady, Jonathan Cady and other descendants of Captain Cady, Sr., were settled on farms west of Killingly hill. John Felshaw had opened a popular house of entertainment at the north end of the hill. The first practicing physician of this re-

gion, Doctor Thomas Moffatt, had his residence upon the hill, as also Noah, youngest son of Justice Joseph Leavens. Simon Bryant died in 1748, leaving his homestead to his grandson, Simon Larned. Deacon Jonathan Eaton died the same year. His successor in the deacon's office, Lusher Gay, of Dedham, purchased the farm originally laid out to Samuel Lee in 1738. Samuel Perrin was rearing a large family in the pleasant Perrin homestead. Jonathan Dresser, Samuel and Seth Paine, were residents of the Quinebaug valley. Captain Isaac Cutler and his numerous sons still held possession of the mills and privileges of the Assawaga, eastward.

Captain Nathaniel Daniels carried on his various business enterprises for a number of years, and was prominent in many public affairs. In 1760, he sold the whole establishment, viz., land, water privilege, mills, dwelling house, together with his "clothier's, fuller's and grist mill tools and utensils," to Benjamin Cargill, then of Mendon, Mass., a descendant of Reverend Donald Cargill. Captain Cargill at once took possession of his purchase and by shrewdness and good management increased and extended the business and became very widely known throughout the section. Rival mills at the Upper Falls now established by the sons of Deacon Eaton made business more lively. A new road to Thompson was laid out "from Capt. Daniels' land to another highway between Landlord Converse's and Martha Flint's" in 1763—now known as "the Mountain Road" between Putnam and Thompson, passing Origin Alton's and Stephen Ballard's. Messrs. Jared Talbot and David Perry had set up grist and saw mills upon the Assawaga at the site of the ruined Daniels' mills.

Killingly hill had now received another practicing physician, Doctor Samuel Holden Torrey, son of the famous Doctor Joseph Torrey, of South Kingston. His young wife, Anna Gould, of Branford, brought with her four slaves as part of her marriage portion. His brother, Joseph Torrey, settled east of Killingly hill, marrying a daughter of Reverend John Fisk. Deacon Ebenezer, son of William Larned, whose wife was one of the eight capable daughters of Justice Joseph Leavens, also occupied a farm on the same road near the Cutler farms. His brother, James Larned, a shrewd business man and reputed usurer, resided near Felshaw's tavern. Among other residents upon homesteads now within Putnam limits were Isaac Cady, Samp-

son and Pearley, grandsons of Captain Sampson Howe, Hezekiah and Benoni Cutler, Benjamin and Noah Leavens, Benjamin, Jonathan, Nedebiah, Joseph, David and Isaac Cady, Jonathan and Samuel Buck and Joseph Adams. West of the Quinebaug the residents were not numerous, the land being held mostly by the Perrin and Sabin families. "Cargill's bridge" below the High Falls, was rebuilt in 1770—John Grosvenor, Samuel Perrin and Benjamin Cargill, committee. An attempt to lay out a more direct road from Cargill's westward was defeated.

In the various wars in which the colonies were concerned, the future Putnam bore her proportionate share. Ensign Samuel Perrin served actively in the French and Indian war, his wife supporting her family mainly through "the hard winter" of his absence by a crop of carrots raised by her own hands. Samuel, oldest son of William Larned, served as first lieutenant of Captain David Holmes' regiment. James Wilson was so unfortunate as to be carried captive into Canada, returning just in time to save his wife from a second marriage. As the revolutionary war came on the whole valley was stirred. The old Cady homestead, upon the decease of Captain Joseph Cady, was purchased by Darius Sessions, son of Nathaniel Sessions of Pomfret, and then deputy-governor of Rhode Island, one of the prominent leaders among the revolting patriots. The house, already "old," was thoroughly reconstructed, enlarged and beautified, transformed into a stately, colonial mansion. Governor Sessions also took much pains with his grounds and farm, making, according to President James Manning, "truly wonderful" accommodations. In this fine country seat many patriots found a safe retreat from the constant alarms and perils of the seaboard, making it almost a war office and place for general consultation. Killingly hill, with its lofty banner and bonfires, the South Neighborhood Elm, a noted place of rendezvous, are memorable revolutionary localities. Even more sacred is the little triangular common at the junction of the Woodstock and Pomfret roads, west of the Mill river, where Captain Stephen Brown paraded with his company before marching to Cambridge after the Lexington alarm. Three giant Sabins were in this company, of whom at least one, Ichabod, was slain at Bunker hill. Elihu Sabin was also in that battle, and lived to delight many hearers with the story of his experiences, and especially of that last charge of ammunition which he kept in reserve until hotly pursued by a gallant British

officer. "And did you kill him?" the boys would ask eagerly. "Well, I don't know exactly," he would answer, "but the last I saw of him he was getting off his horse."

With the adoption of the federal constitution and the quickening of business enterprise all over the United States, new life developed in the Quinebaug valley. Ebenezer Bundy came into possession of the Eaton farm and privileges after the removal of the Eaton families to western Massachusetts. He built a new dam or reconstructed the old one, his grist mill being set upon the rocks, near the bank of the river, the site now occupied by the north end of the mill owned by the Putnam Manufacturing Company. Great efforts were made to secure a road direct from this point to Larned & Mason's store in the South Neighborhood, which was now the headquarters of mercantile enterprise, but just at this juncture public men were too much occupied with the new town question to give attention to road making. Captain Cargill meantime was greatly extending his business operations, buying land east of the river, setting up a gin distillery, building new mills and houses. In 1787 he completed the new grist mill, fitting it up with all the best art of the day, with three complete sets of grist mills and a bolting mill. A blacksmith shop, and two trip hammers, a fulling mill, and mills to grind scythes and "churn butter" were among his achievements. Mr. Timothy Williams of Woodstock, speaks of Captain Cargill's new enterprise with much enthusiasm, "Viewed from lofts at Cargill's mills" (the first and second were used for mill purposes); "the third a Baptist meeting room; 4th, a large, convenient, well replenished granary." With such accommodations and the best attendance, it was no marvel that the establishment took precedence of all other mills in the section, farmers in neighboring towns driving by their home mills because of the superior quality of Cargill's grinding.

The captain was a genial, whole-souled man, the life of the business and settlement, delighting in his large family and varied business enterprises. The rude rhyme in which he incorporated the names of his eleven children almost parallels that of the famous "Hutchinson Family" song. His oldest daughter, Lucy Cargill, married as his second wife, Doctor Albigeance Waldo, of Pomfret, the most noted physician and surgeon of his day, a man of varied gifts and attainments. Mrs. Waldo sympathized in her husband's literary tastes, and was herself a writer

and poetess, especially noted for her proficiency in the "art of letter writing." Cargill's Mills was thus noted for literary society as well as a business center. The third meeting of the first medical society in Connecticut was held at Cargill's, September, 1786. Still there were no residents at the mill beside the Cargill family and those employed by them. A block of three wooden houses was built west of the grist mill by Captain Cargill about this date, which survived some years after Putnam was made a town.

The "Pomfret Factory grave yard," west of the old factory, must have been opened at this time, as the children of Mrs. Waldo were buried there. Many of the descendants of Captain John Sabin were also buried there. His original homestead, the old historic Sabin house, had now passed into the hands of his grandson, Cornet Jonathan. Not far from the house but on the east side of the road, so that it came within the limits of the present Putnam, stood a quaint old house with diamond windows, known as the "Silas Sabin place," and a little north of it stood the "Peter Sabin house." Silas and Peter Sabin were brothers, descended from Deacon Benjamin of Pomfret, who had contrived to get possession of some of the John Sabin land, for which, it was said, they paid a trifling yearly rental. The wives of Cornet Jonathan and Silas Sabin were sisters, daughters of ——— May, so that these three families were very closely connected. They were all of immense stature and fine singers, social and hospitable, and most heartily improved their remarkable social privileges. Still another pleasant Sabin homestead was that of the revolutionary veteran, Deacon Elihu Sabin, and his excellent wife, a favorite resort for young and old.

Land from Cornet Sabin, and other tracts from various parties, increased Ebenezer Bundy's farm to at least five hundred acres on both sides the Quinebaug. Renewed petitions for a road from Larned's store to Bundy's mills excited much discussion and some opposition in Thompson. Though much addicted to road making, this young town was chary of cost. When it was decided in 1797 that a turnpike was actually to be laid out through West Thompson, renewed efforts were made to procure a direct road from Larned's store to Bundy's mills at the Upper Fall, and thence west to intersect the stage road near Abel Alton's. The committee reported in favor of such road, but their report was rejected again and

again. It was not until Mr. Bundy offered to build a good substantial bridge, at his own cost, over the Quinebaug, and the owners of the land volunteered to give what was needful, fence the road and make it passable, that the town reluctantly consented to allow it. This road, as laid out, began twenty-six rods west side the Quinebaug, then across the river where Eaton's bridge had formerly stood, then in a straight line up hill and down to intersect the old road from Thompson meeting house to Cargill's, near the house of Isaac Parks. It made a very direct route from Woodstock and the Quinebaug valley to Larned's store and on to Providence, but the steepness of the hills made it a very hard road to travel, and children going to Bundy's mill on horseback were often pitched head over heels descending these declivities.

Cargill's mills had now been thrown into market. The death of Doctor Waldo, and of some of his own children, had broken the health and spirits of the good captain, and he felt unable to compete with his enterprising rival above. In his advertisement in 1793 he sets forth in glowing terms the peculiar advantages of his "noted inheritance," with land of the most valuable kind, water sufficient to grind three hundred bushels the dryest day ever known, and prophecies that the place "is and must be a place of great trade." In 1798 he effected a sale to Moses Arnold and John Harris, of Rhode Island. In 1800 Arnold's share of this purchase was sold to Jeremiah and Nehemiah Knight, of Cranston. "Knight & Harris" ran the various mills and works for a few years, under the superintendence of Mr. Nehemiah Knight, afterward governor of Rhode Island. A store was now opened in one of the three Cargill houses. Some local improvements were accomplished by Mr. Knight, who beguiled his lonely hours in this isolated valley by laying out "a solitary walk" on the tongue of land between Quinebaug and Mill rivers. This walk, rechristened "Solitaire," was long a favorite rural resort. Captain Cargill removed to Palmer, Mass., with his widowed daughter and the remnant of their families, but his name and memory were long preserved.

While for a hundred years the vicinity of Quinebaug High Falls was widely known as a crossing place, fishery and mill site, it had few residents and fewer school and religious privileges. Its scattered families attended church and school in whichever of the three towns they chanced to be located. During the rev-

olutionary war a strong Baptist element developed, through the labors and influence of President Manning of Brown University. A Baptist society was organized in the Quinebaug valley, taking in residents of Pomfret and Killingly. Reverend Mr. Kelley labored with them as a pastor, holding services in convenient residences, which were well attended and productive of much good. One of the rooms in Captain Cargill's mill was used for a Baptist meeting room. Mr. Manning was very anxious to establish a Latin school in this valley, to serve "as a nursery for the college," foreseeing its probable development.

Methodism met with equal favor. As early as 1792 a noted Methodist itinerant, John Allen, was allowed to hold a religious meeting in Cargill's press room. His plain and pungent preaching struck conviction to the hearts of the hearers. A number of young women professed conversion, and soon were gathered into a class. They were joined by three young men—Elijah Bugbee, William Gary and Noah Perrin. The latter was appointed class leader, and opened the hospitable Perrin house for public services. Pomfret was included in New London circuit, and made a regular preaching station. A number of respectable families joined with the Methodists—the Sabins, with their grand voices, Perrins, Garys, Cadys, Bucks, etc. Wonderful meetings were held in the Perrin house and Cargill's meeting room. The Methodist singing and the fervid exhortations and prayers carried everything before them. In 1795 Pomfret circuit was formed, with 169 professed Methodists; Jesse Lee, presiding elder; Daniel Ostrander and Nathaniel Chapin, preachers. Though meeting much opposition from the established churches upon the hill-tops, the Methodists continued to gain ground in the valley, and became an element of much power.

Killingly hill was now an important center, with its reconstructed meeting house and military gatherings, its common being one of the amplest and finest in the county. Doctor Robert Grosvenor, now established there in medical practice, was the leading physician and surgeon. Justice Sampson Howe had opened its first store. Its tavern was kept by Captain Aaron Arnold.

Putnam's cotton manufacture dates back to remote periods, the factory opened by Mr. Smith Wilkinson below the High Falls of the Quinebaug, in 1807, being the first of the kind in Windham county, and one of the first in Connecticut. Experi-

menters in Rhode Island had succeeded after much labor and trouble in constructing machines for spinning cotton by water power. Ozias Wilkinson and his ingenious sons had established a factory in Pawtucket, in 1798, and then sought a wider field of enterprise. The Quinebaug Falls and valley was the site selected, and the Pomfret Manufacturing Company formed January 1st, 1806. Its constituent members were Ozias Wilkinson, his sons, Abraham, Isaac, David, Daniel and Smith Wilkinson, his sons-in-law, Timothy Green and William Wilkinson, and James, Christopher and William Rhodes. James Rhodes, of Warwick, R. I., had previously purchased of John Harris a half interest of his share of the Cargill property. All this interest, with the remainder of the privilege and much other land in the vicinity both sides the river, were now secured by the Pomfret Manufacturing Company, and its charge and the care of building the projected factory, and superintending the various works, entrusted to the youngest brother, Mr. Smith Wilkinson, who soon proved himself master of the situation.

The lonely vale, with its rocky hills and heavy forests, rang with the busy clatter of the numerous workmen. With happy forethought Mr. Wilkinson selected the Fourth of July for raising the frame of the factory, when a great concourse of people from all the adjoining towns came together to help about the work and satisfy their curiosity in regard to this novel enterprise. The work of building and reconstruction went rapidly forward. The "solitary walk" laid out by Mr. Knight was less attractive to the young manager than a brisk ride to Killingly hill, where he found agreeable society in the hospitable home of Captain Sampson Howe. In a few months he married Miss Elizabeth Howe, and began housekeeping in a small house* east of the river. Machinery and all needful appurtenances were hauled up from Providence, and on April 1st, 1807, the first cotton factory in eastern Connecticut was set in motion—a four story wooden building, 100 by 32 feet in dimensions. Its business was to spin cotton yarn to be woven on hand looms into coarse cloth and bed-ticking. Its working force was a few children picked up in the neighborhood, with a man in each room to help and oversee them. The boys and girls were delighted with the new employment, and thought the glittering machines "the prettiest things in the world." When a heavy snow storm

*Site now occupied by Putnam Bank.

blocked the roads one morning the little girls put on men's boots and waded through the drifts in their eagerness to work. They were paid about seven shillings a week.

The children were not alone in rejoicing over the new industry. To the women who wove the cloth it was a boon beyond expression. It is hard to realize the scarcity of money in those days, especially in farming families, when produce was cheap, markets few, business openings rare and wages low. The privilege of earning things for themselves was thus most joyfully welcomed by hundreds of active women. A store promptly opened by the company, offered all manner of useful and ornamental articles in exchange for weaving. Women of every rank, the well-to-do as well as the poor, hastened to avail themselves of this golden opportunity. The impulse given by the new mill was felt in many ways. Many workmen were needed for teaming, farming, mill tending, house building and other purposes. The grain mill was kept busily at work. A handsome house opposite the mill was soon built by Mr. Wilkinson, for his own residence, and other houses for operatives and new residents.

So rapid was the increase of population that in 1812 Mr. Wilkinson found it needful to build a school house for his village. A neat brick building was erected on a steep hill east of the river, which was also used on Sundays for a house of worship. Though himself a member of the Congregational church at Killingly hill, and a regular attendant upon its service, Mr. Wilkinson was on friendly terms with all other denominations, and most willingly accorded them the use of the school house. The Methodists held service every alternate Sabbath for some years, under the charge of the Thompson circuit preacher. On other Sundays the Baptists "held the fort," under Elders Grow, Crosby, Nichols, Ross or Cooper. Reverends Daniel Dow or Elisha Atkins or Eliphalet Lyman would often carry on "a five o'clock meeting" in the brick school house. So sober and substantial was the character of the Pomfret Factory residents that there were but two families in fifteen years which habitually refused church attendance. The singing, according to a trustworthy reporter, was as varied as the sect of the preachers. When the Methodists held service choristers like John M. Sabin and Augustus W. Perrin led such a volume of male and female voices as would shake the rafters of the house and waken the soundest

sleeper. The Baptist singers were led by Artemas Bruce, especially on funeral occasions, and the Congregationalists by Mr. Jedidiah Leavens, unless Mr. Dow preferred to set his own favorite tunes—Windham, Mortality, Florida or Hebron. Sunday was Sunday indeed under 'Mr. Wilkinson's forcible administration, and any deviation from its proper observance was promptly noted and punished, and even those audacious youngsters who presumed to play ball upon the day of the state fast had the law enforced against them and were made to pay legal fines.

During the war with Great Britain Pomfret factory flourished greatly, making one year a dividend of \$36,000. By paying large prices they were able to secure sufficient supplies of cotton from Philadelphia, the large profit more than reimbursing the heavy outlay. Thus solidly established the company met the reverses that followed without embarrassment, and succeeded in introducing power looms and other new methods of labor without serious inconvenience. Continued improvements were made in the village and surrounding country. The factory farms were brought under good cultivation. Mr. Wilkinson took much pride in the great mowing lot near the Upper Falls, and in other parts of his farm. It is said that thirty-five hay-makers might sometimes be seen on a good hay day swinging their scythes in time with each other. Methodical in all things, Mr. Wilkinson once announced "that he had upon count a cock of hay for every day in the year—365." A village cow was taken from house to house every night and morning in summer that all the families might have a supply of new milk. Each tenant had a garden spot for raising his own vegetables, and laid up his own beef and pork for family consumption. Fresh meat was brought in occasionally by farmers as they slaughtered, and meat, milk and ice carts were all unknown in those primitive days.

Upon the request of Mr. Wilkinson, a road was laid by the selectmen of Thompson from the old road over Parks hill direct to the village in 1818. The town voted to accept the road as laid out and also voted, "That it is the sense of the town that the old road from Pomfret Factory, until it intersects the above reported road, be discontinued." Bundy's bridge was newly covered and a new road laid out to the Brick Factory. Sufficient travel passed through the village to support a respectable tavern under the old yew tree at the west end of Cargill's block. Mal-

achi Green is remembered among its landlords. In 1823 a new stone building was erected, to be used for the manufacture of woolen goods. Its foundations were laid by Asa White, a veteran mill constructor, who had overseen the building of some of the first factories in New England, but who died while this was in progress. In 1826 Mr. Wilkinson became chief proprietor, as well as manager, associating with Mr. James Rhodes in place of the former company. The new stone mill was now used for cotton manufacturing and the old mill for woolen goods. More houses and workmen were demanded and business operations extended. A new interest grew up at the upper privilege, with the building of a brick factory there by Mr. James Rhodes in 1830. Through the good offices of a former resident of this section, we are indebted for an unique Directory, giving a full report of the residents of the old Pomfret Factory between 1815-1830, viz:—

“Smith Wilkinson—agent Pomfret Manufacturing company. Superintendents in their order—Augustus Howe, Thomas Dike, Gen. Reuben Whitman. Overseers of weaving shop—David Whitman, John N. Leavens. Machinists—Eden Leavens, Asa White, James Cunningham, A. Blanchard, Alpheus Chaffee. Blacksmiths—John Phipps, William Phipps, Jonathan Clough. Overseers of carding and repairing—Arthur Tripp, P. Carpenter, Ira Graves, Almon Graves, Benjamin Morris, Jedediah Morris, J. H. Morris, Jr., George Morris, Thomas Chapman, Lyman Lawrence, G. W. Eddy, William Andrews, Welcome Eddy, Benjamin Matthews, Charles Richmond, Joseph Cundall, Obadiah Grinnell, J. Keach, Charles Chaffee, J. Dike, D. Harrington, S. Harrington, Jr. Manager of Picker Mill and general painter—David Hall. Mule spinners—Green Capron, William Johnson, Jonathan Perrin, George B. Carey, Martin Leach. Clothiers and fullers—A. Thompson, J. Basset. House carpenters—Sylvester Stanley, Joseph Heath, Samuel Truesdale, Jr., Asa Park. Blue-dyer—Jedidiah Leavens. Bleachers—Ephraim Congden, E. Chase, Jacob Mann. The clerks in the store were James Hopkins, William Arnold, S. Davis Leavens, George Howe, Augustus Wilkinson, Henry Wilkinson, Daniel P. Dow, Horace Whitaker, Edmond Wilkinson, William Warren, Sampson Howe. Clerks in the Domestic department were Lemuel H. Elliott, N. Aldrich, Jedidiah Leavens, Jr., A. W. Perrin. The keepers of the general boarding house were, in order, Stephen Stone, L.

H. Elliott (afterward steward of Brown University), N. Aldrich, Willard Arnold, Asahel Elliott, Benjamin Warren, Eleazer Sabin. The grain miller was Frank Pearce; the saw miller, Isaac Moore; the butcher, J. H. Morris; the cow-herder was Thomas Richmond; the freight-teamer to and from Providence was Joseph Stone, with a yoke of venerable oxen, Bug and Bright, and a younger yoke, beside Hezekiah Converse (a grand bass singer) was farm teamer for many years; his successors were Harvey White and Reuben Hoar. There were 'captain farmers' also—Darius Starr, William Martin, Elliot Hammond. Others in the vicinity who plied the plow, scythe and hoe, while their sons and daughters worked in the mills, were Messrs. Bean, Harrington, Chaffee, Faulkner, Brown, Keach, Cary, Weld, Willard, Herandean, Johnson, Kelley, Gallup, Maserve, Chamberlin. Among those who tried to keep them all with a good understanding (the shoe-makers) were S. Truesdale, A. Plummer, J. Harris, G. Glasco."

There were many families in the vicinity worthy of notice if space permitted. Noah Perrin, Sr., the Methodist class leader, had now succeeded to the ownership of the Perrin farm, and his numerous sons and daughters were much in demand for teaching school in the surrounding region, their united service amounting to some sixty-seven terms. Captain Joseph Buck, a mile east on the Providence road, was a much respected citizen, chorister at the West Thompson Methodist church, the model head of a most worthy and promising family. South on the Pomfret road another large and promising family was growing up in the household of Mr. Abel Dunn. Near them lived the Sawyers, one of the old Pomfret families, with the blind brother with such marvelous instinct and aptitudes. Their neighbors, the Gilberts, Halls and Garys, had all large families, growing up to be useful men and women in widely separated fields. Another noted family in that neighborhood was that of Captain Alfred Holmes, whose children it is said were all well educated and gifted, their home the center of a "brilliant social circle." Captain Eleazer Keith, old Deacon Deamon, Mr. Darius Seamans, were well known residents upon the mountain road northward.

These various families, remote from the centers of the three towns in which they dwelt, were drawn in many ways to Pomfret Factory and more or less identified with its interests. In

the social life of this pioneer "factory village" there was much that was pleasant and enjoyable. The owner and master was a life-time resident, dwelling among his own people, having a personal interest in all their affairs. A bond of common interest and reciprocal regard united employers and employed as one great family—its central hearth the delightful home of Mr. Wilkinson. Probably no house in the three converging towns entertained so much company. Its hospitable doors were always open, and rich and poor alike, county gentry and village operative, received the same cordial welcome. The noble and lovely wife of Mr. Wilkinson was indeed the "mother of the village." In health and in sickness, in weal and woe, all were sure of the warmest sympathy and aid.

The Rhodessville enterprise began with the division of the Bundy privilege at the Upper Falls, which was surveyed and laid out in four divisions of about twenty acres each by Simon Davis, Esq., in 1827. These divisions were then apportioned by lot among the several owners, Abram and Isaac Wilkinson and James Rhodes drawing the two lower privileges, William and Smith Wilkinson the two upper privileges. At this date there were but two houses upon the estate, one on the east side of the river, occupied by Hezekiah Converse, the other on the west side, by the Glasko family. A new dam was soon built and the brick factory completed and ready for work in 1830; Stephen Erwin, of Rhode Island, manager. A row of tenement houses and store building were also constructed; James Bugbee, store-keeper. The operatives were all American. In 1834, the mill narrowly escaped destruction by fire. In 1836, Mr. Nehemiah T. Adams was appointed resident agent and Mr. Leonard Thompson had charge of the store, and was in turn succeeded by Mr. Chauncey Hammett. In 1837, Rhodessville had become so populous that it was constituted school district No. 17, of Thompson, and a school house was built by the company. In the spring of 1841, prosperity was suddenly checked by the burning of the factory building; supposed to be the work of an incendiary. About a hundred persons were then employed by the establishment. The mill was rebuilt under the supervision of Mr. N. T. Adams. The death of Mr. James Rhodes the following year made further changes, and after temporary depression the village entered upon a career of greatly extended prosperity.

In 1835 a road was laid out from Simeon Allen's brick works on the Boston turnpike to the Quinebaug, over the Rhodesville bridge and on east through the South Neighborhood, intersecting the old Woodstock and Thompson turnpike near Sawyer's store, which greatly facilitated the transportation of cotton from Providence. Yet with all the shrewdness and enterprise of the two companies and their managers, the supply of cotton was limited and business operations could not be largely extended. Keen eyes watched with eager interest the experiments in new methods of transportation. Windham county manufacturers noted and encouraged the various schemes for accommodating their own valley, and were prominent among the stockholders of the Norwich & Worcester Railroad Company. The actual opening of the railroad in November, 1839, was joyfully welcomed by business men, though little foreseeing the revolution it would accomplish. The first depot master at the Pomfret Factory was Mr. John O. Fox, removing thither from West Thompson. Amasa Carpenter, from North Woodstock, occupied part of the building, carrying on with Mr. Fox a thriving business in grain and groceries.

Slowly at first business came to the valley. For a year or two there was little apparent movement, and then the tide turned from the hill towns. John O. Fox and Martin Leach were among the first to build dwelling houses on the east side of the street, near the depot. In 1844 a building for stores was erected by Mr. Asa Cutler in the same locality, and first occupied by Lewis K. Perrin, assisted by his brother Charles. The land east of the depot was purchased from Mr. Tully Dorrance, whose wife, Mrs. Sally Dorrance, inherited in the Pomfret Manufacturing Company the right of her deceased father, James Rhodes. Mr. Dorrance therefore owned much valuable land, and also carried on manufacturing in the first old mill built by Mr. Wilkinson. Other Rhode Island manufacturers were now on the field, looking up eligible privileges for prospective enterprises. Hosea Ballou, Allen & Nightingale, M. S. Morse & Co., won the prizes at Rhodesville and soon broke ground for three large factories. With the advent of their masons and carpenters a boom set briskly in. Lafayette Waters, stone mason, who had the charge of much of the stone work in the three mills, bought land in the vicinity and sold out a number of building lots. Houses for dwellings and stores sprang up in various quarters where eligible sites

could be procured. Young men from the hill towns engaged in trade or professional work in the two villages.

The first physician on the ground was Doctor H. W. Hough, who removed his practice from Killingly hill to Pomfret Factory in 1846, buying the first building lot sold by Mr. Smith Wilkinson, on which he soon erected his present residence. He was soon followed by Doctor Thomas Perry, who remained a few years. The first lawyer to open an office was Mr. Harrison Johnson, of Killingly. One of the first merchants was Nathan Williams, of Pomfret, associated for a time with ——— Ely, of Killingly. Manning & Plimpton soon followed on the east side of the river. Both these stores were largely patronized by residents of the hill towns, and business grew and multiplied in true Western style. Doctor Plimpton also engaged in medical practice. Doctor Benjamin Segur opened a drug shop opposite Perrin's store, near the railway crossing. Jeremiah Shumway's tailor shop stood next to Perrin's store, across an alley, and the first saloon, kept by Cyrus Thornton, occupied Perrin's basement. Three churches meanwhile were pushing their way along, striving for precedence and building lots.

The opening of the three great factories in Rhodesville in 1846-47 added some hundreds to the population and gave additional impetus to the growth of the villages. Mr. Wilkinson, now advanced in years, foresaw the future importance of this business center, but did not care to engage in new enterprises. For some years he was much occupied in settling the affairs of the Pomfret Manufacturing Company, making division of its large assets among its few claimants. The general business of the company was now managed by Mr. Edmond Wilkinson, who was also deeply interested in the development of his native valley. Much land was now thrown into market and bought up by eager customers. Mr. Asa Cutler, a shrewd business man and successful manufacturer, was very prominent in this connection, buying land and building many houses. In 1848 he associated with Thomas Dike, John O. Fox and Newton Clark in building a large brick block for stores, with a fine hall above for public purposes. Lafayette Waters had charge of building this block, using 220,000 bricks in its construction. "Quinebaug Hall" was soon followed by a fine new "Quinebaug House,"

built by Mr. Abraham Perrin, the occupant of another pleasant "Perrin farm" on the road to Pomfret.

Several new roads were needed for the accommodation of builders and travelers. One of especial importance—the present Elm street—was laid out by Thompson selectmen in 1847, upon petition from Tully Dorrance and others, viz., "Beginning south side the present road at Rhodesville," thence partly by a bank wall to the southwest corner of the porch of the school house, thence to a corner of the wall east side North Meadow street, thence to a corner of a barnyard belonging to Smith Wilkinson, thence to a post in the corner of a fence, thence to a point where it intersected the Pomfret Factory road. This road brought many new building lots into market, and served as an important link in bringing the villages together. The last road laid out by the Thompson selectmen was the present School street, in 1854, beginning on the south side of the road leading to Thompson, near the new school house, thence on land of Edmond Wilkinson, crossing a corner of Henry Thurber's lot, by land of Martin Leach and Asa Cutler, to the southeast corner of Doctor Henry Hough's lot, on the north side of the Killingly road. But it was found very difficult to procure all the accommodations needed in this rapid development. People were pouring in on every side; new stores and business operations were constantly set in motion, and demand kept pace with expansion.

With all this growth, and bustle and hurry, there was inevitable clashing and jangling. Nothing could have been more complex and unmanageable than this cluster of villages, belonging to three distinct, independent towns, with no central authority to bring and hold them together, and legislate for their best interests. That so much order and harmony existed under such unfavorable circumstances was undoubtedly due in great measure to the early character of the place as developed under the strong hand of Mr. Wilkinson. There was also something in the new spring and impulse, the pleasure of helping up-build a new and vigorous community, that brought the inhabitants into friendly and mutually helpful relations, working together as one man for the good of the whole section. As the inconvenience of the situation became more manifest, various projects of relief were suggested, such as separate voting places, borough privileges, etc., but nothing met the case till the formation of a new, independent town was suggested. Like many other popular

movements, it seems to have started simultaneously from several sources, or if one man suggested this natural solution of a difficult problem, it was assimilated with such avidity that the name of the originator was swallowed up in universal acclamation. Mr. Edmond Wilkinson engaged in carrying out this project with great heartiness, giving freely money, time and influence.

A public meeting of those favoring a new town was promptly held, and an energetic committee appointed, through whose agency a petition was laid before the legislature in May, 1849, showing the difficulties of the situation, and praying that the villages known as Pomfret Depot, Wilkinsonville, Rhodesville, Ballouville and Morse's Village might be incorporated into a new town, made from portions of Thompson, Killingly, Pomfret and Woodstock, and designated as Quinebaug. Indignant representations from the four towns therein named procured a prompt rejection of this presumptuous petition. Opposition but increased the zeal and determination of the new town agitators, and made them more united in effort. New inhabitants coming in caught the spirit of the contest, and joined with the older citizens in contending for sectional rights and independence. Few battles have been fought in which there was more harmony among the assailants. There were no traitors in the camp. Few if any old town sympathizers were to be found in the villages, but in the outlying country demanded by the new town there were many who objected strongly to any change in their municipal relations, whose names swelled the mammoth memorials gathered by its opponents.

Leaving out Harrisville from the prospective town, in 1851 petition was renewed for parts of Thompson, Killingly and Pomfret. Again they were beaten, though evidently gaining the ear of the general public. The old towns perceiving the fiery spirit that animated their youthful adversary, roused themselves to greater effort. Their strongest men, their sharpest lawyers were retained as committees and agents. An actor reports: "Each Legislature was besieged by the friends and opponents of the measure; lobby members reaped a golden harvest; much other business was seriously embarrassed by this bitter and useless strife; party politics was invoked on both sides; to the democrats it was going to make a whig town and leave the old towns hopelessly whig, a result to be fearfully dreaded; and to

the whigs it would make a democratic town, and inevitably fix democracy as the ruling power in the old towns, and thus ruin the state and county; to the miserly men the taxes would be increased enormously in both the old and the new towns."

It is hard to realize that so much time, temper and money should have been freely squandered by three intelligent towns in fighting against the inevitable. Taking Putnam for name and watchword in 1854, after a brief suspension of hostilities, the new town champions battled on to victory. The rise of the know-nothing party and the election of Mr. Sidney Deane as representative hastened the inevitable result, and the Goliath of conservatism fell before the youthful representative of energy and progress. The final hearing of the case, May, 1855, excited unusual interest in the state. Very able counsel was employed on both sides. The closing arguments and pleas were offered in one of the largest halls in Hartford, which was crowded with eager listeners. Hon. Charles Chapman made a forcible appeal in behalf of the old towns. He was answered by Windham county's special orator and advocate, ex-Governor Chauncey F. Cleveland, a life-long democrat in the true sense of the word, the friend of the people and of everything relating to the highest good and development of individuals and communities, who had been deeply interested in this unequal struggle, and now surpassed himself in his most earnest pleas that the petitioners should be allowed their reasonable request for expansion and town privileges. Six years of arduous conflict were rewarded by triumphant victory, and liberty to embody as a distinct town was at length heartily accorded. Ringing bells and booming cannon bore the joyful tidings to the ears of conquerors and defeated, and the Fourth of July celebration held a few days later in Putnam village, had a new and vital meaning to its rejoicing participants. While all citizens were interested, and to a degree helpful, the main burthen was borne by the van-leader, Mr. Edmond Wilkinson, who planned and carried out details from the beginning to the end, and paid five-sixths of the legal expenses.

The first town meeting was held at Quinebaug Hall, July 3d, 1855. George Warren, Esq., served as moderator. James W. Manning was chosen town clerk and treasurer; George Warren, Horace Seamans, Luther Hopkins, selectmen; Asa Cutler, agent of town deposit fund and treasurer of the same; Alanson Her-

andean, Moses Chandler, Erastus Torrey, Abel Dresser, Jr., grand jurors; Abiel L. Clarke, constable. Sign posts or bulletin boards were ordered to be set up, one near the depot, one at Sawyer's store, one at South Putnam, and others at any suitable place, and the several books needful for public records were ordered.

CHAPTER XXXI.

THE TOWN OF PUTNAM—(Concluded).

Officers and Statistics.—Layout of Roads and Naming Streets.—Establishment of Churches.—Baptist Church.—Congregational Church.—Methodist Church.—Catholic Church.—Episcopal Church.—Advent Christian Church.—Other Religious Societies.—Schools.—Cotton Manufactures.—Pomfret Factory Woolen Co.—Silk Manufactures.—Shoe Manufacture.—Artisans and Mechanics.—Business Men's Association.—Village Development.—Various Manufacturing Enterprises.—Creamery.—Water Works.—Commercial Houses.—Business Blocks.—Hotels.—Banks.—Fire Department.—Fraternal Societies.—Celebrations.—Temperance Movements.—Library Association.—Newspapers.—Orchestral Music.—Antique Art Loan Exhibition.—Village Cemetery.—Other Burial Grounds.—Old Killingly Hill, now Putnam Heights.—East Putnam.—Its Local Institutions.—Biographical Sketches.

As we have already seen, the town of Putnam was incorporated in May, 1855. After incorporation and organization the town set to work to adjust the many perplexing questions which naturally confront a new corporation just starting out upon its voyage of existence. Settlement with mother towns was amicably effected within a few months. Nine and a half square miles and 1,876 inhabitants had been taken from Thompson; seven and a half square miles and 275 inhabitants from Killingly; three square miles and 168 inhabitants from Pomfret. The population of the new town was thus 2,319, of which about three-fourths were included in the village. The prescribed bounds were run by competent surveyors from the respective towns and confirmed by town authorities. Putnam's share of the property of the several towns, the school deposit fund and other funds, together with her proportion of public poor, were promptly made over, and its various affairs were soon settled upon a satisfactory basis. Lucian Carpenter was appointed sealer of weights and measures. It was voted that the number of selectmen, assessors and board of relief should be three each; of grand jurymen, four. October 1st, the town was called to vote upon its first constitutional amendment—"That

every person shall be able to read any article of the state constitution before being admitted as elector." The votes cast were 153—88 in favor, 65 against the amendment. On the same day the town held its first annual meeting and completed its quota of town officers. Assessors chosen were Seth Babbitt, Eli R. Davis, Warren W. White; board of relief, Benjamin Brayton, Richmond Bullock, Daniel Alton; selectmen, Horace Seamans, Walter S. Burlingame, Chandler A. Spalding; town clerk, treasurer and registrar, James W. Manning; constables, Riley Smith, Archibald Kennedy; fence viewers, David Clark, Lucius E. Sawyer, Dan Cutler; grand jurors, Alanson Herandean, George E. A. Bugbee, Erastus Torrey, Abel Dresser, Martin Leach; sealer of weights and measures, Lucian Carpenter; pound keeper, Riley Page; haywards, Charles Pike, Prosper Bundy, Horace Cutler, Olney Whipple, Elliott Carpenter, George Perry, Palmer Hide; agent of town deposit fund, Asa Cutler. The assessors were ordered to make an equal assessment of every person's property according to actual value without reference to old abstracts—George Buck, George Warren, Richmond Bullock, auditors of accounts. Rooms in the Brick Block were to be hired for public meetings. The first justices chosen April 1st, 1856, were Horace Seamans, Hiram A. Brown, Henry C. Reynolds, Warren W. White. The first representative was Richmond M. Bullock. A probate court was constituted the same year and justice Horace Seamans unanimously elected judge.

Thus legally established and provided with competent officers, Putnam went bravely onward, preeminently the modern town of northeastern Connecticut, booming with life, hope and energy, rejoicing in its admirable location and manufacturing and railroad facilities. From its first starting it had the good fortune to draw from the surrounding sections young men of sterling character and active business habits, who identified themselves with the interests of the town, and gave their best energies to its upbuilding and development. As in earlier years "God sifted three kingdoms to furnish seed for the planting of New England," so some of the best elements of three substantial towns were enwrought into the foundations of Putnam. Its subsequent growth has kept pace with this favorable beginning. Built up mainly by the gradual accession of men of moderate means and large energies, this growth has been healthful and natural, till now it stands among the leading inland towns of

New England, in many respects a model among modern manufacturing and railroad towns—its distinguishing characteristic a large-hearted and aggressive public spirit, ever ready to make sacrifice of self for the good of the public. Its population at the latest count was nearing seven thousand; grand list, \$1,995,008. For thirty-four years it has had the good fortune to retain as town clerk, treasurer and registrar the man who received the first choice of its voters, James W. Manning. Selectmen in 1888: Omer La Rue, Lawson I. Bowen, Walter P. White; assessors, Charles D. Torrey, Prescott Bartlett, Peter M. Le Clair; board of relief, Patrick O'Leary, Warren W. White, John S. D. Grant; grand jurors, Louis Elontie, Edward Fly, John R. Cogswell, Lebbeus E. Smith; constables, Milo P. Corbin, Byron W. Carpenter, William H. Longdon, Edward De Croner, George B. Ingraham; haywards, 1. Fred Cutler; 2. William R. Holland; 3. David E. Clark; 4. M. O. Bowen; 5. William A. Pearson; 6. Ashael Batty; 8. Walter White; auditors of town accounts, Samuel R. Spalding, William A. Pearson. The running expenses of the town for the year ending August 31st, 1888, were \$30,000. Like other modern towns with lofty aspirations Putnam has been compelled to cumber itself with a debt in carrying out the various improvements that have seemed imperatively needful, whose interest is a heavy item in annual expenditure. Among the extras of 1888 were some \$700 expended in clearing the roads of snow, after the famous March blizzard.

Putnam, as previously hinted, has been greatly exercised by the uncertain laying out of some of its first roads. By untiring effort these difficulties have been in a great measure surmounted, old streets widened and new ones laid out where needful. Among her notable achievements has been the clearing up, laying out and transformation of the hills east of the village, which in 1855 were still reposing in aboriginal rudeness, covered with rock and forest. One of the first to aid in the transformation of Oak hill was Mr. Ebenezer Farrows, who purchased wild land on the east side of Oak hill, together with a boggy swamp eastward. By hard labor in draining this swamp and clearing the brush, Mr. Farrows prepared the way for human habitation. A street that bears his name now runs from Ring street to Walnut street, continuing thence over what were formerly the wooded heights of Shippee hill. Handsome dwelling houses, "beautiful for situation," adorn the various streets crowning

Oak hill. Many public spirited citizens have aided in this work of transformation, clearing off the road, digging out rocks, making ready for the laying out of convenient streets. An angle long left to disreputable rubbish, has been lately purified, reconstructed and built up with tasteful dwellings, through the enterprise of Doctor Miller. Even the historic "Dow's Grove," with all its serious and mirthful associations, its memories of religious meetings, band concerts and rink skating, has been forced to bow before the ruthless hand of progress. Purchased by one most prominent in the later building up of the town at a recent date, it is already reclaimed, graded, laid out into handsome streets and a large number of eligible building lots, offering ample accommodations for many present and prospective residents.

As soon as it became manifest to the "gathering multitude" that the villages in the vicinity of Pomfret Factory were to be consolidated into one comprehensive organism, plans were set on foot for the establishment of churches. The old inhabitants of Pomfret Factory were distinctively meeting goers, faithfully attending service in the adjacent churches, and greatly enjoying the religious gatherings in their own school house. As Rhodessville grew up and both villages increased in population it was most interesting to see the families and foot travelers starting off on a fair summer morning for West Thompson, Pomfret and Killingly. The Baptists, first in the field, probably led in numbers, many of them being members of the Pomfret Baptist church. Reverend Benjamin Congdon, a son of this church, and then its faithful and devoted pastor, encouraged the church members in the valley in their efforts to maintain stated worship among themselves. A humble petition that the mother church "would, by a vote, delegate to us all the authority and privileges of a branch of your body," was kindly received, and on January 17th, 1847, the branch was duly constituted, it being understood that such a body could exercise all the powers of an independent church, except that of disciplining and excluding members. Harrison Johnson was chosen clerk; Elliott Carpenter and William Johnson to assist in the administration of the Lord's Supper. Meetings were held alternately at the brick and Rhodessville school houses; Reverend Lucius Holmes of Thompson, a promising young minister, serving as pulpit supply, while the probable cost and location of a meeting house was discussed

and canvassed. Mr. Holmes was hired to preach for a year, but ere long it was found that he had adopted Universalist sentiments.

Having thus virtually lost minister and place of worship, the persevering Baptists repaired for service to the passenger room in the depot. The committee appointed "To see if a sufficient sum of money could be raised to build a new house of worship," reported in its favor, and after much discussion between the advocates of rival sites, it was voted by a majority of *one*, "To locate on the western side of the river," on land given to the church by Messrs. Smith and Edmond Wilkinson. David Clark, Rhodes G. Allen, Doctor Henry W. Hough, William Johnson and Reverend D. D. Lyon were appointed building committee.

After obtaining dismissal from the Pomfret church, it was voted, August 30th, 1847, "To form ourselves into an independent church." David Clark, Elliott Carpenter, Amos Carpenter, Jarad Chollar were chosen church committee; Harrison Johnson, clerk and treasurer. Reverend D. D. Lyon served as supply during the year, working "with his own hands on the foundation of the building," soliciting funds, baptizing new converts, and was succeeded by Reverend Solomon Gale.

May 30th, 1848, was a memorable day in the history of the church. An ecclesiastic council, held at the house of R. G. Allen, welcomed the Wilkinson Baptist church into the fellowship of Baptist churches, and the new house of worship was formally dedicated. Sermons were preached by Reverends Charles Willett and J. Swan. David Clark and Elliott Carpenter were confirmed in the office of deacon. In the following May Mr. Gale was succeeded by the Reverend Allan Darrow, a man of experience and strong character, well adapted to guide a young church in a growing community. The office of clerk and treasurer was held successively by Jared Chollar, Dwight T. Meech, Arthur Tripp, James W. Manning, Ezra D. Carpenter, Joseph Lippitt. The membership of the church constantly increased, embracing many active, devoted, faithful brethren and sisters. Reverend Charles Willett succeeded to the pastorate in 1854, another strong and influential minister, leaving deep impress upon the life and character of his hearers. His successor, in 1857, was Reverend W. C. Walker, a man of lovely spirit and great earnestness, who labored with signal success during the memorable revival of 1857-58, and received many into church membership. His earnest patriotism and great popularity with the soldiers led him to ac-

cept the chaplaincy of the 18th Connecticut regiment, a position which he filled with great usefulness and acceptance. Mr. Willett, "without a dissenting voice," resumed his former charge.

The first meeting house had now become too small for the congregation, and was enlarged and remodelled. J. W. Manning and G. W. Carver were elected deacons in 1865, "to assist their aged brethren in the spiritual concerns of the church." Mr. Willett resigned his position in October, 1872, and was followed in November by Reverend B. F. Bronson, D.D., a veteran pastor, highly esteemed throughout the Baptist denomination. In the following February the Baptist meeting house was destroyed by fire. Immediate efforts were made to replace it by a more substantial and commodious structure. Mr. Rhodes Allen and others who had helped build the first sanctuary, were equally ready to give and labor for the second. Mr. George M. Morse, Deacon Manning and many others gave largely of their substance, and on May 16th, 1874, the beautiful house was ready for dedication. The interesting services were conducted by Doctor Bronson. Prayers were offered by the former pastors, Mr. Willett and Chaplain Walker. The sermon was preached by Mr. Davies of Norwich, in place of Doctor Lorrimer, detained by illness. In 1875 George M. Morse and Frederick E. Lovering were added to the number of deacons. Charles N. Allen succeeded Mr. Lippitt as clerk and treasurer. Doctor Bronson continued in charge till 1881, and was greatly valued as a man of broad and catholic spirit as well as fervent piety, of high culture, fine taste and much versatility. Reverend J. R. Stubbett entered upon the pastorate April 1st, 1882.

A commodious parsonage was now provided on land given by Deacon G. M. Morse. In 1887 M. L. Aldrich was chosen clerk, and George A. Smith, treasurer. At the same date the pews were declared free, and the church to be supported by the voluntary contributions of the people. For more than forty years the Baptist church of Putnam has ably fulfilled an important mission, and made itself a power in a rapidly developing community. Many revivals have been enjoyed, adding largely to its membership. Much aggressive work has been successfully carried forward. The Sabbath school connected with the church is very flourishing, embracing 584 members. The present membership of the church is over five hundred.

Congregationalists closely followed Baptists in effort and organization. Residents of the valley had been long connected

with the old church on Killingly hill, afterward recognized as the First Congregational church of Putnam, and many of the new inhabitants were members of other Congregational churches. Two ministers in the vicinity, foreseeing the importance of the position and believing that a church of the Congregational polity might be sustained, laid the matter before the Windham County Association of Ministers in 1847. That body appointed Reverend George Tillotson, of Brooklyn (son-in-law of Mr. Wilkinson), to devote four or five Sabbaths, and as much intervening time as was practicable, in surveying the field and awakening interest. The brick school house was secured for stated services upon the Sabbath. Reverend E. B. Huntington labored as missionary. July 9th, 1848, a church was organized in the brick school house, with twenty-seven members, nine of them males, dismissed from twelve churches. Nathan Williams and Amherst Robinson were chosen deacons. Mr. Huntington was installed pastor in November, 1848.

The church gained steadily, but did not think it wise to agitate the question of building a house of worship, and Quinebaug Hall was used for that purpose. A building lot on the corner of Main and Pomfret streets was given to the society by Messrs. Wilkinsons and Dorrance, and here a small church edifice was built, and dedicated January 15th, 1852. Mr. Huntington had been then succeeded by Reverend J. Leonard Corning, an able and attractive preacher, soon demanded by churches of larger promise. The pulpit was supplied by Reverend Sidney Deane and Reverend J. R. Johnson until 1856, when a change of base had been effected and the church recognized as the Second Congregational church of Putnam. The impulse given in the creation of the new town extended quickly to the churches. During the ministry of Reverend Eliakim Phelps the number of church members steadily increased, and during the great revival of 1858 many were gathered in. Reverend George Tillotson entered upon the pastorate March 10th of that year, when the church numbered about one hundred members. Year by year gain was made in numbers, efficiency and liberality. Ere long the congregation had outgrown the place of worship, and the site of the present church edifice was secured. The former lot was sold, and an ample and convenient church building erected, and dedicated April 28th, 1870. The membership of the church was then increased to over two hundred. December 20th, Rev-

erend Thomas M. Boss was installed as pastor, and served for six years with zeal and efficiency. A quarter-century commemoration was observed the second Sabbath of July, 1873, when a very interesting historical discourse was given by Mr. Boss. Reverend E. B. Huntington, first pastor of the church, assisted in the service, and reminiscences were related in the evening exercises by older members of the church. A system of rules for the ordering of the church was adopted during the pastorate of Mr. Boss.

Records and minutes of church affairs were unfortunately destroyed in the great fire. Mr. Boss was dismissed in 1876, and succeeded by Reverend C. S. Brooks, installed May 29th, 1877, who continued in service ten years, during which period the church maintained steady growth and prosperity. The present pastor, Reverend A. D. Love, was installed July 20th, 1887, and entered upon his work with great earnestness. The present membership of the church is 328. Messrs. Myron Kinney, E. M. Wheaton, T. P. Botham and F. W. Perry serve as deacons; J. Davenport, clerk; H. N. Fenn, treasurer; S. H. Seward, superintendent of Sunday school, which enrolls some 300 members. Sunday schools are also carried on at Harrisville and in Sawyer's district, numbering about a hundred pupils. Regular preaching services are held in these districts and at Putnam Heights.

Methodists had long been prominent in the Quinebaug valley, holding services in Cargill's mill house, Perrin's dwelling house and later in the brick school house. The first Methodist camp meeting in eastern Connecticut was held in Perrin's Grove in 1808, and many other famous meetings were held in the same locality. "Dow's Grove," lately Mechanics' Park, received its first name from a service held therein by the noted Lorenzo Dow, who finding the brick school house already occupied by Elder Grow and the Baptist brethren, drove on into the woods on the Killingly road, hung his hat upon a twig and began preaching or rather reciting poetry. Yet so numerous in the vicinity, Methodists were slow in establishing regular worship and removing their relationship from the West Thompson church. The mile or two was of little consequence in those days when worshippers were accustomed to Sabbath days' journeying, and the Thompson society was strong and vigorous, with the best of Methodist singing and preaching. It was not

till Putnam had become a town that measures were taken for providing a Methodist house of worship. Land was loaned by the Nightingale Manufacturing Company and building initiated.

A number of Methodist brethren and sisters, mostly members of the West Thompson church, organized as a distinct body June 25th, 1858, Reverend L. B. Bates officiating. Worship was maintained in Morse's Hall till the opening of the new church edifice. Dedication services were held December 30th, conducted mainly by Elders Ramsdell and Bates. In 1859 Elder C. S. Sanford served as pastor, when the membership had reached over a hundred. Reverends H. W. Conant, G. W. Brewster, James Mather, John Lovejoy, Robert Clarke, L. D. Bentley, James Thomas, A. N. Bodfish, E. F. Jones, W. P. Stoddard, L. P. Cansey, James Tregaskis, George H. Butler, have served successively as pastors of this church. An interesting historical discourse was prepared by Mr. Clarke in 1868. All debts were then paid and the society flourishing. The present pastor is Reverend Wilbur C. Newell; church membership, 110; Sunday school members, 90.

Putnam, like other modern manufacturing towns, embraces now a large foreign element. In the former days of "Pomfret Factory and Rhodessville," masters and workmen were alike of New England stock, descended mainly from old Puritan families, to whom the very name of Catholic was the embodiment of false doctrine and usurped authority. The advent of the first French Canadian, Peter Donough, in 1843, with a large family of children, their foreign tongues and outlandish ways, excited much curiosity and interest. Other Canadians followed with troops of children, and after the opening of the three great factories in 1848, foreign operatives were very generally employed. Reverend Michael McCabe was sent by the Catholic bishop of Connecticut to look after these wandering sheep and hold religious services. For a time most of these foreigners only staid to earn a little money and take it back to Canada, but as their numbers multiplied a portion became permanent residents.

Holy Mass was now celebrated monthly in Quinebaug Hall, and an acre of land purchased for religious purposes. Putnam parish, as then constituted, embraced also Pomfret, Woodstock and Thompson. Reverend William E. Duffy, Pascoag, R. I., was placed in charge as a missionary in 1858, and in the following

year laid the foundation of the first Catholic house of worship in northeastern Connecticut. It was a small wooden structure, costing when completed a little over two thousand dollars, but was considered quite an achievement for this migratory and scattered population. Little progress was made till the advent of Reverend Eugene J. Vygen, in 1865, a newly ordained minister from Belgium, consecrated to missionary work in the United States. Sent to administer the sacraments to the Catholics of Putnam, he was greatly moved by the spiritual destitution of the people. Without resident priest, schools or burial ground, it was no marvel that "scandals became frequent and the Church of God suffered." The keen-eyed young missionary saw at a glance the great capabilities of the field. Some half-dozen large cotton manufactories in Putnam and Thompson were bringing in hundreds of Catholic families. Putnam village gave promise of becoming an important business center, and was the natural church home of this increasing Catholic population. With much earnestness Father Vygen laid the need and opportunity before the bishop of the diocese, and was allowed to enter upon the Putnam pastorate.

The result has far more than realized his most sanguine anticipations. Giving his whole time and energies to the work, within two years he had secured the laying out and consecration of a convenient Catholic cemetery, purchased other land, and erected a pastoral residence, and fused the scattered elements into a united and reverent congregation. Before proceeding to erect a worthy church edifice he returned to Europe and gathered aid from many friends, and then entered upon this great work with redoubled energy and enthusiasm. The wooden structure was soon replaced by a substantial brick building, with trimmings of light gray granite. Its interior was very fine, fitted up with much care and taste. The altar was "a gem of art," adorned with angels wrought in Munich, "of the highest order of art, ideality and beauty." Above and back of the altar were three stained glass windows. The semi-dome over-arching the altar was divided into five panels, colored in deep blue and studded with gold stars; in each was the representation of an adoring angel, each carrying an emblem of the passion of our Lord. The first carries the crown of thorns; the second the cross; the third the palm of victory; the fourth the chalice; the fifth carrying wheat, significant of the Eucharist. Pulpit and organ were

in keeping. This beautiful structure, capable of seating fifteen hundred people, was formally consecrated as St. Mary's church, by Right Reverend Bishop McFarland, November 24th, 1870, and for nearly five years had served the purposes of its construction, receiving thousands of joyful worshippers, when almost in a moment it was reduced to ashes. So rapid was the fire that not one of its valued treasures was rescued—library, organ, altar, chalice, were all consumed. The building with its contents was valued at \$85,000. With his accustomed energy Father Vygen at once commenced the erection of a chapel, celebrating mass on Sundays meanwhile at Quinebaug Hall. November 1st, 1876, St. Joseph's Hall was dedicated by Right Reverend Bishop Galberry—a neat and tasteful building in the rear of the blackened ruins, furnishing seats for eight hundred people. The erection of Catholic church edifices in other towns has somewhat diminished the number of regular attendants at Putnam, so that this hall has continued to accommodate the congregation. In 1873 Reverend H. Martial, afterward the much-beloved and respected pastor of Grosvenor Dale parish, was appointed assistant of Father Vygen. Reverends Thomas P. Joynt, Alphonse Van Open and Edward Chapdelaine have also served as curates. Father E. J. Vygen*, now the senior minister in Putnam, is much beloved by his people and respected by all for his consistent Christian character and faithful labors in behalf of temperance, morality and all salutary enterprises.

A recent survey of Putnam, accomplished under the direction of the Connecticut Bible Society, gives the following denominational statistics:

Advent families.....	29.	Individuals.....	105.
Baptist “	194.	“	825.
Congregational families..	162.	“	529.
Episcopal families.....	17.	“	74.
Methodist “	68.	“	248.
Roman Catholic families..	593.	“	3,135.
Universalist families.....	34.	“	115.
Scattering families.....	11.	“	31.

The number of Catholic families and individuals thus considerably exceeds those of all other denominations combined. In regard to nationalities, the report shows: American families, 588; individuals, 2,198. French families, 464; individuals, 2,604. Irish families, 105; individuals, 433. English families, 21; in-

*Father Vygen died in October, 1889.—*Ed.*

dividuals, 109. Others, nine families with fifteen members. The Catholic church grounds include the ruins of St. Mary's church, St. Joseph's Hall, a convent, school house, parsonage, gas building, music stand, park, flower garden. They also have laid out and own St. Joseph's Park upon the Quinebaug, south of the village, a part of the old Perrin farm. Within the last twenty years there has been a great change in the character and standing of the "foreign element." It is more and more manifest that it has come to stay. Children of these families growing up in the town are truly citizens. Many own their own homes and farms, engage in agriculture and trade, and are identified in many ways with the growth and development of the town, sharing in the administration of government. Very interesting services have recently been held in Putnam in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Father Vygen's ordination. Jubilee services began Monday evening, April 1st, at Exhibition Hall, when all the societies connected with the church were present in regalia, with all the school children, members of the boarding school and hundreds of spectators. A brilliant procession accompanied the Reverend Father to the church the next morning, where high mass was performed, Bishop McMahon and a dozen priests assisting. More than twenty Catholic clergymen were present on this occasion. A vast audience filled Exhibition Hall, where an ovation was given by the young ladies of the convent school, consisting of music, song and addresses. Very interesting congratulatory and historic addresses were made by Doctor La Rue in behalf of the Canadian element of the parish, and by Mr. Patrick O'Leary in behalf of the Irish. In summing up the results of twenty-three years' faithful labor, it was noted that in 1866 the whole property of the Catholic church in this section was one little wooden building with the site on which it stood, while in 1889 it numbers five churches, five priests, two convents and two large parochial schools.

Regular Episcopal services were established in Putnam in November, 1868, under charge of Reverend J. W. Clark, now rector of St. James' church, Washington, D. C. These services were held in Brown's Hall during the erection of St. Philip's chapel, on Elm street. The corner stone of this edifice was laid with appropriate ceremonies, October 18th, 1870, and the house opened for worship February 24th, 1874, Bishops Williams, of Connecticut, and Paddock, of Massachusetts, and other noted cler-

gymen assisting in the exercises. About a hundred families have been connected with this parish, of whom a considerable number are residents of neighboring towns. Reverend J. W. Clark was succeeded in 1876 by Reverend E. Jessup, who was followed successively by Reverends P. H. Whaley, W. F. Bielby and A. P. Chapman. The present incumbent is Reverend T. H. Church. The seatings in the church are free.

An Advent Christian church was organized in 1870, Reverend D. Matthewson pastor. This church has erected a neat chapel and maintains stated services. Its pastor is an earnest and faithful laborer.

September 12th, 1887, Universalists organized as a distinct church, holding services in the hall of the Grand Army of the Republic. Reverend D. L. R. Libby serves as its pastor. Trustees of the parish are: Orrin Morse, chairman; J. F. Weatherhead, clerk; Marvin Barrett, treasurer; H. P. Benner, R. B. Stroud, Irwin H. Roberts.

Spiritualists maintained stated services for a number of years, but are now disbanded.

Putnam enjoys a peculiar religious institution in what is known as the "Holiness Prayer Meeting," carried on year after year in Morse's Hall, with ever-increasing interest. Christians of various denominations and towns, pledged to higher life and deeper spiritual consecration, have found these union meetings a special means of grace to themselves and the source of unmeasured blessings to many sympathizing attendants.

Schools received immediate care from the fathers of Putnam. Their first meeting as a school society was held at Quinebaug Hall, July 9th, 1855. Moses Chandler was chosen clerk and treasurer. The first school committee were its honored citizens, Chandler A. Spalding, Richmond M. Bullock and Lucian Carpenter. Reverend Charles Willett, Messrs. Harrison Johnson, G. W. Phillips, W. W. White and Nathan Williams were appointed school visitors; Lucian Carpenter, collector. At the second meeting, September 21st, Messrs. Manning, Willett and B. F. Hutchins were empowered to set out and bound districts. October 6th, a larger number were designated for the important service of investigating and fixing suitable district boundaries, viz., James Allen, William Tourtellote, Alvan D. Potter, Henry Hough, L. Hopkins. Their elaborate report was mainly accepted, and after some minor alterations the bounds were allowed

nearly as at present. Some distant portions of the territory were associated with adjoining districts in other towns. The six districts wholly included in Putnam, after subsequent changes and consolidation, were generally known as: 1, East Putnam; 2, South Neighborhood; 3, Putnam Heights; 4, Gary District; 5, Depot Village; 6, Rhodesville. The first formal school report was presented by Visitors Horace Seamans and Daniel Plimpton in 1859. Number of children then reported in town, 685; number of non-attendants, 196. The expense of maintaining public schools for the year, including repairs of school houses, was nineteen hundred dollars; monthly wages paid to male teachers, \$31.27; to female teachers, \$16.54. Judge Seamans resigned his position in 1862, after seven years' faithful service, his experience in teaching and deep interest in public education and the growth of the town, giving much weight to his counsel and judgment. Doctor Plimpton succeeded as chairman of the board of visitors. The growth of the schools in the central districts was now very rapid, demanding new school houses and additional teachers. In his careful reports Doctor Plimpton urged with much earnestness the special needs of Putnam village, viz., the consolidation of the two districts, and the establishment of graded schools with suitable high school. This project was warmly discussed, having earnest friends and equally earnest opponents.

In 1866 a vote was carried in town meeting to accept the act of legislature allowing consolidation and a Union school district. Strenuous objections were made at the time, especially from the upper district. At a special town meeting, January 5th, 1867, this vote was rescinded by 93 versus 90. Agitation continued, and zealous efforts on both sides, resulting in what was called "the Sixth District School Fight," an episode in Putnam's history meriting Carlyle's "wise oblivion." A motion from one of the chief opposers of consolidation laid the question on the table by a final vote of 140 versus 111.

Doctor Plimpton was succeeded as chairman of the board of visitors by Reverend G. J. Tillotson, who, like his predecessors, gave much time and thought to the interests of the schools, especially those of the central districts, now numbering 672 of the 838 children. Irregular attendance and lack of accommodation and suitable classification were greatly deplored. In 1869 new buildings were reported, with over a thousand children. Another veteran schoolteacher, Mr. J. J. Green, was now very active

in school affairs, himself instructing adult pupils in a night school. Doctor Bronson and Mr. W. H. Ward also served very efficiently on the school board. As the children of the early residents of the town grew up into maturity the need of higher educational privileges was more vitally apparent. July 25th, 1873, a meeting was called to consider the question of establishing a high school. A motion to dissolve the meeting was lost by a majority of ten. A majority of twelve voted to establish a high school in Putnam. It was further voted to raise \$12,000 for school lot and building. Messrs. Manning, Alton, Wheelock, Wilson and Fisher were chosen a committee to discharge all duties relating to the projected school; Messrs. Chamberlain, Houghton, Capen, H. N. Brown, Salem Ballard, committee for site. Land was purchased from Mr. G. M. Morse. Messrs. Phillips, Carpenter, G. M. Morse, Capen and Wheelock were appointed committee for building. A room was hired for school purposes and the high school actually begun during this year. Additional funds were needed for building purposes in the autumn. The prospect of a heavy debt and greatly increased school expenditures was very distasteful to taxpayers in the town, especially to those who had no personal interest in a high school. October 6th the town was again called together, to reconsider the question and rescind previous votes. A majority of 47 authoritatively decided that the school had come to stay; that a public high school had become an imperative necessity. Forty-nine pupils were reported the first term, with Latham Fitch principal, and Ellen Osgood assistant. The school building was dedicated, with appropriate exercises, December 1st, 1874. Superintendent Northrup and other prominent friends of education were present. The number of pupils was then 65—8 from outside the town.

In the fifteen years following this opening the school has been well sustained. Competent and faithful teachers have required and secured a high standard of scholarship. Hundreds of pupils within the limits of the town, and a goodly number of outside pupils, have enjoyed its advantages. Public graduation exercises from year to year have excited much interest. Scholars have gone out fitted for higher seminaries and college, and for various departments of business and usefulness. Graduates and scholars have united in a Putnam High School Association, keeping alive friendship and interest by pleasant "Field-days"

in Roseland Park. At the close of the last school year nine graduates participated in the exercises. The influence of the school has been every way salutary and stimulating. The public schools throughout the town are in good condition. An interesting report is recently given of the closing exercises in Sawyer's district, formerly "District No. 1," of the town of Thompson. Out of forty-two scholars the average attendance was thirty-seven. The number of children reported in Putnam in 1888, between four and sixteen years of age, was 1,558; account for high school, \$2,277.82; for district schools, \$5,677.45; for night schools, \$349.83. School visitors: Lucius H. Fuller, Eric H. Johnson, J. B. Kent, Omer La Rue, Frank H. Church, Darius S. Skinner. Mr. Skinner also serves as truant officer.

Parochial schools are also maintained for the boys and girls of the Catholic parish, under the auspices and superintendence of Father Vygen. The school house was built in 1873, together with a very commodious and ample edifice, designed for a first-class boarding school for young ladies, conducted by Sisters of Mercy. These buildings are on the church grounds, near St. Joseph's Hall and the ruins of St. Mary's church, and are fitted up with great care and taste. Part of the cost was defrayed by the insurance on the burnt cathedral. The schools were opened in April, 1874. At least four hundred pupils attend the parochial schools, and about sixty the boarding school. This school is of a high order, conducted by devoted and accomplished Sisters. The first superior and principal, Sister M. Josephine, a person of high mental attainments, died in 1876. Her successor, M. Paula, is well qualified for the duties of her charge, and young women graduating from this institution sustain a rigid examination with great credit. The admirable discipline and order observed in these schools, the superior and thorough character of the buildings, the beauty of the grounds, testify in the strongest terms to the energy and fidelity of their reverend projector.

The manufacture of cotton goods, the prime element in Putnam's early growth and prosperity, is still its dominant interest, engrossing the largest amount of capital, giving employment to by far the largest number of residents. Rhodesville leads in this manufacture with its mammoth mills and myriad looms. As in former days Mr. Smith Wilkinson stood for the embodi-

ment of manufacturing enterprise, so now one man stands at the head of three large establishments, overseeing the general interests of a business far beyond the highest ideal of previous generations. The Morse mill with its large addition, the fine Powhatan mill erected in 1872, the mills of the former Nightingale Company, including the old Rhodesville mill, are all under the management of the general agent and part proprietor, George M. Morse; G. C. Nightingale, treasurer. A capital of \$600,000 is invested in these manufactories. More than nine hundred looms are run, and about eight hundred hands employed. The former Ballou mill passed into the hands of Mr. Edward Cutler, a much respected resident of Putnam, who carried on the establishment for a number of years. He was succeeded by an association of Providence gentlemen, known as the Putnam Manufacturing Company, which after various reverses, still retains the privilege. South of the Falls, on Meadow street, are the fine new buildings of the Monohansett Manufacturing Company for the manufacture of sheetings, established in 1872—Estus Lamb and George W. Holt, of Providence, proprietors. About 175 hands are employed by this company—George W. Holt, president; A. F. Lamb, treasurer; George W. Holt, Jr., resident agent.

The old Pomfret Factory Woolen Company, which under the management of Mr. M. Moriarty, had been doing a very successful business, was seriously crippled by the failure of a large wool house in New York and after a year's struggle was forced to make an assignment. The present Putnam Woolen Company was organized in 1878; E. A. Wheelock, resident agent and treasurer. This company improves the privilege of the former woolen company in the manufacture of cassimere, employing nineteen sets of machinery and over three hundred hands.

With the influx of new blood and capital several new and promising industries have been established. In this aggressive age the supreme authority of King Cotton has been questioned, and wool, silk, iron, steel and even such down-trodden entities as shoes, assert their claim to equal sovereignty.

The manufacture of silk goods was introduced in Putnam by Messrs. G. A. Hammond and C. C. Knowlton, January 1st, 1878. Land and building on the flat below the falls was procured from Mr. G. M. Morse, one of the contracting parties, and great pains taken with all the initiatory arrangements for this novel enter-

prise. About thirty girls were ready to begin work, attracted by the inherent fascination of silken fabrics for the feminine mind—with a sufficient number of experienced workmen to instruct and aid. With new machinery, skilled labor and unwearied pains the mill was successfully set in motion, and bales of silken filaments from Japan and China wrought into substantial sewing-silk and twist for American use. The process, though not difficult, required a nicety of touch and observation, and many applicants failed to meet these conditions, but in time all difficulties were overcome and many women and girls rejoiced in the establishment of this agreeable and remunerative industry. At the close of their first decade the Putnam Silk Mills report continued progress and prosperity. In 1885 the business had so outgrown accommodations that the old mill was rented and the works and machinery moved into a large three-story building in the same vicinity, furnishing ample room, abundant light and every convenience. About a hundred and twenty-five operatives, including ninety girls, are steadily employed. A visitor to the mills is struck by the order, neatness and apparent cheerfulness of its inmates. The process by which the slender spinings of the silk worm are transformed into familiar silk and twist and heavy braid is a marvel of mechanical skill and ingenuity. The weekly product is sent immediately to market, through their own agent, no "middle men" being employed by this firm, and the experiment of silk manufacture in Putnam has proved a financial benefit to all concerned.

The shoemaker is not a modern invention. As far back as can be remembered every neighborhood had its local cobbler. Two or three such shoemakers and menders were known in the Quinebaug valley, their shops a famous rendezvous for boys and news-mongers. The first to introduce anything like the modern sale shoe manufacture into Putnam was Reverend Sidney Deane, who had previously served with great acceptance in the Methodist ministry. A man of much versatility and abounding energy, he was especially adapted to the exigencies of the aspiring villages, and encouraged to engage in shoe manufacture in 1852. An ardent champion of the new town interests, he was yet elected representative of Thompson in 1854, on the express understanding that the question of separation was not to be raised at the approaching session of legislature. But unsettled questions persist in asserting themselves on all occasions; "manifest destiny"

hurried matters to a crisis, and Thompson's elected representative carried all before him in a most eloquent appeal in behalf of the new town. The "tide" in Mr. Deane's affairs that set in with his championship of the future Putnam, swept him on to a seat in congress and political life, leaving the shoe manufacture in the hands of one of his assistants, Mr. Charles M. Fisher. "Fisher & Clarke" carried on the business for a year; then Fisher alone for a year. In 1856 Edward T. Whitmore associated with Mr. Fisher, under the firm name of "Fisher & Whitmore," their partnership continuing about eight years.

Great changes were continually made in this manufacture by the introduction of machinery and new modes of working, involving the necessity of larger accommodations and outlay. William G. Tourtellotte was associated for a time with Mr. Fisher, as C. M. Fisher & Co. Thomas P. Botham, Hiram H. Burnham and William D. Case were later partners, who represent the firm since the death of Mr. Fisher, September 30th, 1886. About 120,000 pairs of shoes are annually produced by this firm, employing from eighty to a hundred hands. Steam power is used as far as practicable.

Mr. Whitmore continued in the shoe business, having for a time W. H. Tourtellotte for a partner, and then, with Mr. W. S. Johnson, established the firm of "Whitmore & Johnson," making women's, boy's and misses' boots and shoes. Losing their factory in one of Putnam's destructive fires, they now occupy the "old silk mill," abandoned by the silk manufacturers for a larger building. Beside carrying on this extensive manufactory, Mr. Whitmore has operated in real estate, building a number of houses on Elm street. Mr. Artemas Corbin, who has been for many years connected with shoe manufacture in Putnam, and Mr. Prescott Bartlett, are engaged in the manufacture of slippers, employing each a considerable number of hands.

Carpenters and masons, workers in wood and stone, have found abundant employment in Putnam. The Truesdells, Whitfords, Chamberlains, Farrows, Waters, Herendien are among the many who have helped build up the town. John O. Fox, so useful in many ways, opened a lumber yard about 1860. The Bundys have long served as house painters in Putnam, and adjoining towns have called out a corresponding advance in the whole line of house building and decoration. The old-

time house carpenter, plodding interminably over a single dwelling, is superseded by great establishments, with gangs of jolly workmen, driving jauntily about and hastily throwing up Queen Anne and other fanciful structures. Much of the material used is prepared by machinery and steam. B. M. Kent established in 1875 a manufactory of window frames, sashes, doors, blinds, balusters and kindred articles. Much work has been accomplished by contractors Kelly and Wheaton, erecting many of the fine new buildings in Putnam, Pomfret and other towns. A large number of men are employed by them during the summer. Other work is done by John Adams, bricklayer and contractor, by H. F. Hopkins and others. A lumber yard is kept by Myron Kinney. Many workmen are employed in house painting and decoration by Mr. T. L. Bundy.

Putnam's development in manufacturing enterprise has been much quickened by the formation of a Business Men's Association. Keen-sighted men awoke to the conviction that the business of the town was not sufficiently diversified; was too much limited to the cotton factory interest. A meeting was called in March, 1884, in which some forty citizens participated. Mr. Manning served as chairman. Much spirit and unanimity were manifested. Appropriate remarks were made by different business men. The chairman stated that Putnam had grand water privileges and admirable railroad facilities; had started with sixteen hundred inhabitants, and therefore gained in thirty years about three hundred per cent. What she lacked was unity, perseverance and a doing away with so much selfishness. It was voted to form a society—Messrs. John A. Carpenter, T. P. Leonard, G. E. Shaw, L. H. Fuller, C. N. Allen, a committee to perfect a plan of organization and constitution. At the second meeting the proposed constitution was discussed. Judge Carpenter explained the object to be, "To unite all the citizens under rules to work together for the good of the village, in whatever way their united voluntary efforts could be directed." Some who favored the object could not exactly see how the association could contrive to carry it out, but the wise chairman gave his earnest approval and thought a great deal of good could be brought about, if the manner of doing could not be stated or defined. He was deeply concerned to get the entire people united together for mutual benefit, and to promote the prosperity of Putnam.

At the following meeting the constitution was adopted and a goodly number of signatures obtained. The society was to be called, "The Putnam Business Men's Association." Its object was "to advance the general business interests of the community, and promote a more intimate knowledge of all events affecting the public welfare, and as far as possible to use its influence to improve the material interests of the community." April 4th, 1884, constitution and by-laws were formally adopted, and the following officers chosen: President, James W. Manning; vice-presidents, E. H. Bugbee, E. A. Wheelock, G. W. Holt, Jr., G. A. Hammond, W. H. Pearson, S. H. Seward, D. K. Olney; treasurer, J. A. Carpenter; secretary, W. W. Foster, M.D.; executive committee, L. H. Fuller, M. G. Leonard, G. E. Shaw, Edward Mullan, C. N. Allen. May 15th 109 citizens of the town had enrolled themselves members, meetings were promptly held, and various needed improvements discussed. The work so well begun was carried forward with much spirit, and the good results predicted from this union of heads and hands abundantly realized. A fresh impulse has been given to business in various departments, several new industries have been established, and many new dwelling houses erected. The present number of members is 100. President, G. A. Hammond; secretary, A. B. Williams; treasurer, J. A. Carpenter; executive committee, G. E. Shaw, L. H. Fuller, E. Mullan, F. W. Perry, W. H. Letters.

One of the most promising among Putnam's later industries is the Foundry and Machine Corporation, incorporated April 1st, 1884; capital stock, \$20,000. A machine shop and other needful buildings were at once erected and the first cast made August 27th. They make a specialty of the Plummer Steam Heater, for which they hold the patent, but also manufacture castings of varied descriptions. The Steam Heater is largely in demand, and the business of the company is well established upon a permanent basis. Some thirty or forty workmen find remunerative employment. Mr. Orrin Morse is president of the company. Mr. William R. Barber, secretary and treasurer, is also the efficient managing agent. Henry G. Leonard, L. H. Fuller, Edward Mullan, J. C. Nichols and George E. Shaw complete the board of directors. This corporation was formed with the special object of adding to the substantial interests of the village, and gives promise of abundant success.

Putnam Cutlery Company was organized in 1886, with a capital stock of \$5,000, for the manufacture of knives of every description excepting table and pocket cutlery. A patented support to the blade, owned by this company, is very valuable, making it impossible to break or pull the blade from the shank. The late John O. Fox was the first president; G. D. Bates, secretary and treasurer.

The Russell Force Pump Company was organized October 31st, 1887, and holds the patent right for supplying New England with this pump, which is manufactured for out-door use, and can be used by power and hand without the use of wind mill. It is a double action pump, capable of pumping from 44 to 50 gallons per minute, made by the Foundry and Machine Corporation. The president of the company is G. D. Bates; secretary and treasurer, W. R. Barber, who, with L. J. Russell, Charles N. Allen, E. Hersey and L. H. Fuller, form the board of directors.

The Putnam Gas Light Company was formed in 1878, and did much for the enlightenment of the village. Farther progress was made through the agency of the Putnam Electric Light Company, organized in 1886, when a hundred and fifty incandescent lamps and thirty-five arc lamps were introduced. Still greater benefits may be expected from the consolidation recently effected, by which "The Putnam Light and Power Company" supersedes previous organizations. President, F. W. Perry; secretary, treasurer and superintendent, Allan W. Bowen; directors, A. Houghton, F. W. Perry, J. W. Manning, C. E. Searls, S. H. Seward, A. W. Bowen, G. A. Hammond.

The Putnam Steam Laundry, Miller & Shepard, proprietors, is a new and flourishing institution, especially welcome to housekeepers. Numberless carpets and curtains bear fresh testimony year by year to its cleansing efficacy, and the weekly washing day is made no longer a supreme necessity.

Concrete walks are made and repaired by Mr. Albert Arnold.

Carriages are also made and trimmed by S. P. Brown, John Gilbert, G. G. Smith and H. W. Howell.

A creamery is one of Putnam's latest institutions. In May, 1888, the subject was first considered and a committee appointed to obtain subscriptions for the formation of a Dairy Company. June 21st, a company was organized, and C. D. Torrey, C. E.

Mills, J. W. Trowbridge, L. H. Fuller, W. P. White, G. A. Hawkins, S. H. Seward chosen directors. Land was secured in Pleasant valley, south of the village, and a building put up sufficiently capacious to accommodate the milk from a thousand cows. In December it was voted to obtain a charter from the legislature, and the capital stock was increased to \$5,000. C. D. Torrey was chosen president; W. P. White, secretary; L. H. Fuller, treasurer; board of directors retained in service. The summer of 1889 finds the creamery under full headway, receiving the milk of several hundred cows in Putnam, Killingly, Thompson and Pomfret, and turning out some two hundred pounds each, of butter and cheese, daily. An expert from New York state manages the milk, keeping everything in excellent order. A ready market is found for all the products. It is hoped that pecuniary profit, as well as much saving of time and labor, will result from this associated enterprise.

One of the most important works accomplished in Putnam, since the formation of the Business Men's Association, is the introduction of an abundant supply of water. Damage by fire and much household inconvenience had accrued from previous scarcity. Mr. George E. Shaw was the first to agitate the matter, laying before the association, in 1884, a resolution to investigate the feasibility of introducing water into Putnam village. Messrs. L. H. Fuller, G. E. Shaw, Moses G. Leonard, E. Mullan, C. N. Allen, J. W. Manning, C. M. Fisher, G. M. Hammond, J. H. Gardner, D. K. Olney and W. H. Pearson were appointed a committee for this purpose. Convinced of its practicability they petitioned the legislature for incorporation, and formed a joint stock company, with a capital stock of \$100,000. Estimates of cost were obtained from different contractors, and Wheeler & Parks, of Boston, selected—they agreeing to furnish the Putnam fire district with sixty hydrants, at the cost of \$1,800 annually. A supply of water was obtained from the outlet of Woodstock lake, about two miles distant, and brought into a receiving tower on Oak hill, and thence distributed throughout the village. A million gallons daily could be used. The present officers of the Putnam Water Company are: L. H. Fuller, president; M. G. Leonard, vice president; George E. Shaw, secretary; Elbert Wheeler, treasurer. The work was completed January 21st, 1886. Though meeting with the combined opposition incident to all costly public enterprises at the outset, Putnam water works

have proved a triumphant success, giving to residents an unfailing supply of their most vital daily necessity, and a sense of security from fire beyond all cost or estimate.

Trade in Putnam scarcely needed the stimulus of association. The Pomfret Factory and Rhodesville stores drew customers from all the surrounding country. The first Pomfret Factory depot dispensed flour and grain as well as tickets. Stores sprung up like mushrooms in the new Depot village, some to collapse after a brief existence, others to grow up into established institutions. The large establishment of Manning & Leonard, with its ample stock of light and heavy articles, is the lineal offspring of a mercantile experiment begun more than forty years since by the senior proprietor. A store opened by another Pomfret aspirant, Nathan Williams, shared largely in popular favor. A directory published in 1861 gives the following list of stores: Dry goods, Cutler & Tucker, J. W. Manning, Richmond & Williams (Lewis), M. S. Morse & Co., J. S. Gay; druggists, D. B. Plimpton, Benjamin Segur; fish market, William Winslow; fruit and confectionery, John L. Flagg; furniture dealers, C. N. & S. P. Fenn; groceries, Henry Leech, Simon Stone; flour and grain, Hobart Cutler, E. H. Davison & Co.; jewelers, J. B. Darling, D. R. Stockwell; merchant tailor, H. N. Brown; ready-made clothing, W. M. Olney; meat market, Sanford H. Randall; saloon, Thomas Capwell; shoe store, F. A. Brewster; saddle and harness maker, C. F. Carpenter; tinware, Stephen Spalding; tailor, Henry Thurber; milliners, Mrs. John B. Clark, Mrs. R. Darling, Mrs. A. Dresser, Mrs. S. C. Sprague, Mrs. Mary Smith. This meagre list was soon extended. The long established watchmaker's and jeweler's shop of Mr. Edward Shaw was removed from Thompson to Putnam in 1863. The solitary tinware and hardware shop of Mr. Spalding, which had contrived to supply three or four towns with cooking stoves and baking utensils, was succeeded by the far more complete establishment of Mr. Thomas C. Bugbee. Three large establishments to-day, carried on by Chandler & Morse, Perry & Brown, and J. E. Taylor & Co., crowded with stoves, heaters, agricultural implements, and all manner of labor-saving devices, illustrate the marvelous progress made in mechanical art and in appliances for household comfort. A fourth store has been recently opened by S. A. Field. The little watchmaker's shop of Mr. Edward Shaw has expanded into an emporium of useful, orna-

mental and æsthetic articles. The Wright Brothers from Waltham, Mass., in six years' trading in the same line, have won success and honorable reputation. Jewelers' wares are also sold by G. L. Geer, practical watchmaker and engraver, and in the well-filled store of E. E. Robbins. Druggists have made still greater advancement. Those who remember the little apothecary shops of former days view with amazement the varied assortment now displayed in the large and elegant stores of G. E. Dresser, Davenport & Burt, G. Farley and E. O. Hersey.

The dry goods stores show less numerical gain, but carry a greater amount of stock than formerly. The list comprises Manning & Leonard, J. E. Bailey, M. J. Bradley, Simeon Farley, Edward Mesner, Murray & Bugbee, A. B. Williams. Mesner carries on "The People's Store," opened in 1869, by J. H. Gardner, and enjoying a wide popularity. The well-known firm of Sharpe & Green is successfully represented by Mr. Williams. Murray & Bugbee have recently succeeded to the popular store opened by the O'Briens. Mr. Bailey was well known as leading salesman in "The People's Store." The number of grocers and provision dealers has very largely increased. Ten leading groceries figure in place of two, managed by C. M. Bradway, Alfred Cou-tois, Edward Fly, Guilbert & Moison, P. M. Leclair, W. H. Mansfield & Co., Edward Mullan, Morse Mills store, P. O'Leary and Smith Brothers. These enterprising merchants were mostly strangers, brought by the growing reputation of Putnam, and have identified themselves with the interests of the town.

A very flourishing trade in flour, feed and grain is carried on in the north part of the village, by Bosworth Brothers, who removed from Woodstock valley to Putnam, about 1870. They run a steam grist mill, supplying hosts of customers. Meat markets are conducted by Morse & Darling, Putnam Cash Market Co., Randall & Co., and A. C. Stetson, which feed the thousands of Putnam and also help sustain the needy towns adjacent. Refrigerator buildings for the reception of dressed beef from the West have been provided near the depot, under the charge of R. H. Bradley. Fish is furnished by H. T. Bugbee and other markets. A former unknown luxury is now abundantly supplied from the ample ice houses of H. T. Bugbee and E. E. Lincoln. Bread and other bakeware are prepared by Bakers Asselin, Labossiere and Lilly, and fruit of every variety is to be found in its season. In the ready-made clothing interest the letter C carries

all before it. The Connecticut Clothing Company, Bates & Lindsey proprietors, has a large constituency, and makes proportionate sales. J. W. Church also makes a specialty of ready-made clothing, and goods for men and boys. Manning & Leonard sell many goods in this line, also, and still a place is left for the tailor's art, as plied by C. L. Gilpatric, J. O'Leary, Legu Milot and J. H. York. J. N. Douty for seventeen years has carried on a successful hat store. Mrs. M. E. Murfey still accommodates her many friends with tasteful millinery. Mrs. Thompson and Buchanan, Miss M. E. Lowe, Madame Breault, Misses M. M. Brady and N. Egan find abundant patronage in this ever attractive art, while some half-dozen dressmakers fail to exceed demand for their useful service. Popular shoe stores are maintained by A. M. Parker and G. W. Ingalls. The latter succeeds Mr. T. P. Leonard, who removed from Woodstock with his brothers, M. G. and W. Leonard, and built the tasteful "Leonard Row," on Providence street. "Shoes of swiftness" and "Seven-leagued boots" might be included in the stock of Mr. Parker, judging from the facility with which he traverses the universe. The chief furniture dealer is now Mr. L. E. Smith. The Fenn Brothers were the first to engage in this business, removing to Putnam before the organization of the town, and were active in church and business affairs. Mr. C. N. Fenn has long served as undertaker, and also deals in pictures, artists' materials and house-furnishing goods. The music store of W. H. Letters supplies other artistic needs. Such every-day essentials as coal and wood are to be found in the convenient coal yards of J. W. Cutler and F. J. Daniels.

Accommodations for stores and business have undergone various vicissitudes. Again and again fires have devastated the center of trade. The original brick block, with its historic Quinebaug Hall, built by early enterprise and sold to Mr. T. H. Bugbee, and the succeeding Bugbee Block, on the same site, were both destroyed. The stately Union Block, now occupying the site, was built by substantial capitalists in 1882-83. Hathaway's, Chesebro's and Wagner's blocks bear the names of those who assisted in their construction. The first Congregational church edifice forms part of Manning's store. Central Block, now owned by W. H. Pearson, was built by Chamberlain and S. P. Fenn. Mr. T. H. Bugbee built the hotel that bears his name. The Chickering House was built by Edward Lyon; the Elm

street House by John Ross. A spacious block, with room for holding courts, is now projected by Messrs. Houghton and Wagner. These gentlemen, with Messrs. Bugbee, Gardner, Miller, Pearson and Wheaton, are prominently connected with the building and land interests of Putnam, with which many others are also more or less associated. One of the older residents, Mr. Edgar H. Clark, civil engineer, has exceeded all others in connection with the surveying and laying out of the fast growing town.

The several hotels of Putnam enjoy abundant patronage. Under the efficient administration of the late D. K. Olney the Bugbee House achieved a high reputation, well maintained by the present genial proprietor. A number of boarding houses are well sustained. Payne's dining room is also a well-established institution, while saloons rise and fall at the option of town voters.

For nearly twenty years after the tide of business had turned to the valley, money accommodations were still found on the hill-top, particularly at Thompson Bank. It was not till near the close of the war of the rebellion that the citizens of Putnam awoke to the conviction that the business interests of the town demanded local accommodation. The establishment of a national bank was accordingly discussed at the office of Hon. Gilbert W. Phillips, March 3d, 1864. Articles of association were adopted and stock subscribed amounting to \$100,000. Application was then made to the United States Treasury Department, and the requirement of the law having been fulfilled, the "First National Bank of Putnam" was opened for business March 23d, in Stockwell's former jeweler's shop. President, Edmond Wilkinson; cashier, Charles S. Billings; directors, Benjamin C. Harris, Sabin L. Sayles, Ezra Deane, Rufus S. Mathewson, George Paine, G. W. Phillips, Chandler A. Spalding, John A. Carpenter. The capital stock was soon increased by \$50,000. A brick building was erected in 1866 and John A. Carpenter made cashier. Mr. Wilkinson was succeeded in the presidency by Hon. G. W. Phillips in 1868, who held the position twenty years. James W. Manning was chosen as his successor. Judge Carpenter still serves as cashier. Mr. S. R. Spalding has held position in the bank for nearly twenty years. Messrs. Franklin Bailey and Seth P. Stoddard served faithfully as bookkeepers. The board

of directors consists of J. H. Gardner, C. J. Alton, E. H. Bugbee, Rufus Pike, Lucius Fitts, with the president and cashier.

Putnam Savings Bank preceded the national bank in date of organization. A charter was granted May, 1862, to Edmond Wilkinson, R. M. Bullock, John O. Fox, R. S. Mathewson, George A. Paine, Horace Seamans, Winthrop Green, Prescott May, William Field, James W. Manning, Charles Bliven, Henry G. Taintor, Charles Osgood, Lorenzo Litchfield, Edgar H. Clark, and George Buck. July 19th the bank commenced business. Edmond Wilkinson served as president; G. W. Phillips, secretary and treasurer; trustees, Edmond Wilkinson, Richmond M. Bullock, John O. Fox, Rufus S. Mathewson, George A. Paine, Sabin Sayles, Jeremiah Olney, Joseph B. Latham, G. W. Phillips. The present officers are: President, J. H. Gardner; secretary and treasurer, Jerome Tourtellotte; trustees, J. H. Gardner, O. H. Perry, C. M. Fenner, Charles P. Grosvenor, Z. A. Ballard, John A. Carpenter, G. W. Holt, Jr., A. Houghton. Deposits reported October 1st, 1888, \$1,132,530.72.

Putnam's facilities for extinguishing fires were long wholly inadequate. Its fire companies were hampered by a scant supply of water. In 1875 a fire district was incorporated, including the village and its immediate vicinity; a fire department was organized and new engines procured. But in spite of these precautions, very destructive fires occurred. The great fire of October, 1877, swept through the heart of the village, consuming Bugbee's and Brown's blocks, with all their stores and offices. Hardly less calamitous was the fire of 1882, when Bugbee's block and other valuable buildings were destroyed. Hydrants ready for instant use in every part of the village will, it is hoped, preclude farther loss and damage from this source.

The present "Fire Department" of Putnam village, organized in 1875, consists of three hose companies, fifteen men each, and one hook and ladder company, supplemented by sixty street hydrants. Fire warden, C. H. Chesebro; chief engineer, L. H. Fuller; assistant engineers, Otis Fisher, H. L. Burt; clerk and treasurer, Charles H. Brown; collector, D. F. Southwick. Protector Hose Company No. 1—foreman, Edward Mesner; assistant foreman, E. G. Wright; clerk and treasurer, C. B. Brown; fifteen members. Eagle Hose Company No. 2—foreman, P. M. Leclair; assistant foreman, Louis Cloutier; secretary and treasurer, Frank Mignault; fifteen members. Reliance Hose Com-

pany No. 3—foreman, W. R. Barber; assistant foreman, J. H. Maynard; secretary and treasurer, A. L. Mansfield; fifteen members. General Putnam Hook and Ladder Company—foreman, Charles I. Gorham, assistant foreman, James Rafferty; secretary, Charles Hicks; twenty members.

Putnam Chapter, No. 41, Royal Arch Masons, organized April 22d, 1879. High priest, Alfred M. Parker; treasurer, Eugene A. Wheelock; secretary, Gilman H. Brown.

Putnam Council, No. 340, Royal Arcanum, organized January 26th, 1883. Present membership, 120. Regent, D. C. Ticknor; vice-regent, L. H. Fuller; secretary, G. W. Gilpatric; treasurer, W. R. Barber; collector, C. A. Smith.

The Blue Lodge represents the oldest Masonic order in the state. W. M., R. W. Morey; S. W., A. M. Parker; J. W., S. A. Field; chaplain, F. S. Oatley.

The St. Jean Baptiste Society was organized August 27th, 1871. President, Omer La Rue; vice-president, Elyear St. Onge; treasurer, Louis Cloutier; secretary, Hector Duvert, Sr.; 204 members.

Division No. 1, Ancient Order of Hibernians, was organized in 1875. Present membership, 80. President, Peter Welch; vice-president, Peter Dowd; recording secretary, James Ryan; financial secretary, Richard Gorman; treasurer, John McCauley; standing committee, Joseph Ryan, Frank Monahan, Martin Welch, John Renshaw, John Moore; committee on finance, Thomas McGann, James Weeks, James Cornell; sergeant at arms, John Whalen; doorkeeper, John Moore.

Putnam's early enthusiasm in patriotic demonstrations burns undiminished. Memorial Day, from its first institution, has been observed with ever increasing interest. Its own burial places, and those in neighboring towns, have been faithfully visited. The services in the Central Cemetery, with the military procession, music, and eloquent addresses, draw large crowds every year, and quite eclipse the conventional Fourth of July celebration. A large number of veteran soldiers residing in town give special interest to these occasions. Post No. 54 of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized April 13th, 1882, and named in loving memory of one of Putnam's honored heroes, Addison G. Warner, captain Co. I, First Conn. Cavalry, slain at the head of his company, Ashland, Virginia, June 1st, 1864. The A. G. Warner Post is very flourishing, numbering 140 members.

A commodious hall is furnished by P. O'Leary, in which the prescribed meetings are loyally observed. Present commander, S. H. Chickering; S. V. C., F. S. Oatley; J. V. C., Thomas West; chaplain, Charles H. Hickok; surgeon, Henry Hough; O. D., Charles Monroe; O. G. William B. Whittemore; Q. M., C. M. Green; adjutant, J. E. Rawson; sergeant major, S. K. Spalding; Q. M. S., Albert S. Granger. Sons of Veterans organized as the M. I. Tourtelotte Camp March 11th, 1886; captain, Augustus Warren; first lieutenant, Fred. Reis; second lieutenant, W. B. Fuller. Company G, Third Regiment, Conn. National Guard, was organized in 1872. Present membership, 62 Captain, C. A. Winslow; first lieutenant, E. G. Wright; second lieutenant, H. J. Thayer. This representative of an ancient state and colonial organization is already distinguished for its dexterity in rifle shooting, having won the regimental trophy for four consecutive years.

Putnam, like other modern towns, is deeply interested in the temperance question, to sell or not to sell intoxicating liquors coming up anew at every annual town meeting. So nearly are parties balanced that extraordinary efforts will procure a victory for either side. Doctor W. H. Sharpe, one of the executive committee of the Connecticut Temperance Union, is one of the prominent temperance workers. A Women's Christian Temperance Union was organized March 27th, 1885, which has already accomplished much valuable work. A majority of forty-eight against license at the last election may be in great measure attributable to its influence. President, Mrs. A. H. Armstrong; vice-presidents, Mrs. George Buck, Mrs. Joseph McKachnie, Mrs. Lewis Deane, Miss Hattie Kennedy, Mrs. M. E. Murfey, Mrs. George Weatherhead; recording secretary, Mrs. C. N. Fenn; corresponding secretary, Mrs. S. K. Spalding; treasurer, Mrs. C. H. Brown; superintendent of literature, Mrs. E. T. Whitmore; Sunday school work, Mrs. George Buck; narcotics, Mrs. W. H. Sharpe; evangelistic work, Miss Alice Johnson; work among the colored people, Miss Louisa Fogg; superintendents of press work, Mrs. N. W. Kennedy, Mrs. C. N. Fenn. Efficient women's missionary associations are carried on in connection with the several churches. A Women's Relief Corps, auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, has been recently organized, when nineteen members were initiated. President, Miss Minnie Warner; first V. P., Mrs. M. Kenyon; second V. P., Mrs. J. McKachnie; treasurer, Mrs. B. S. Thompson; secretary, Mrs. S. K. Spalding;

chaplain, Mrs. A. A. Buchanan; conductor, Miss Gertrude I. Cole; assistant conductor, Miss Carrie E. Place; guard, Miss Annie Monroe.

Another society of recent date is the A. O. U. M., an organization of United American mechanics, having for watchwords, "Honesty, Industry, Temperance." The Putnam Council of this order already numbers sixty members. Trustees, M. Miller, C. Bosworth, G. G. Smith.

Probably the one society in which Putnam residents of every age, sect and character, could most heartily unite, is the newly chartered Putnam Library Association. The lack of a well-stored town library has been long lamented. Such good men as the late Messrs. Chandler A. Spalding and George Williams attempted to meet the need in part by leaving books for a Parish Library in the Congregational church. Others aided in the organization of a Citizens' Library in 1884, which collected about six hundred volumes, under charge of the Women's Temperance Union. Continued agitation and a recent gift from Mr. Edmond Wilkinson have led to a re-organization. J. W. Manning, E. H. Bugbee, George W. Holt, Jr., L. H. Fuller, E. H. Johnson, J. B. Kent, A. B. Williams, E. A. Wheelock, George E. Shaw, are elected board of managers of the "Putnam Library Association," which takes the place of the former society, retaining members and library material. New books will be procured and it is trusted that the Putnam Library will become a thriving, popular and permanent institution.

Progressive Putnam has its conservative element and does not change merely for the sake of changing. A faithful public servant is retained in office. In thirty-four years she has had but one town clerk and treasurer; her school visitors have had long terms of service; her post office has had but few incumbents. Hiram N. Brown succeeded John O. Fox in 1861. His successor, Perry Wilson, held the position till a recent date. The office is now administered by Edward Mullan. Some twenty-five mails are handled daily. The Central Telephone office, Putnam Division, is managed by L. H. Fuller, general insurance agent. Putnam's railroad facilities at the junction of two important lines are very advantageous. The opening and the establishment of the New York & New England railroad, after long struggles and embarrassment, has been an important factor in its later development. Nearly fifty passenger and freight trains pass

daily through the village, and convenient routes connect its depot with the many thriving towns within its circuit.

Interest in its own growth and neighborly affairs is stimulated by its two wide-awake newspapers, which keep a brisk outlook for all passing events. A column in a Danielsonville paper satisfied the requirements of the early inhabitants. A page in the *Windham County Transcript*, edited by Doctor Plimpton, was next accorded. In 1872, the *Putnam Patriot* was established by Mr. Everett Stone, son of the editor of the *Transcript*, which soon gained footing in Putnam and surrounding towns. Mr. A. W. Macdonald, the present editor and proprietor, succeeded Mr. Stone in 1882, and is now associated with Mr. L. O. Williams. The *Patriot* is now a large quarto, filled with town and county news and more substantial reading, and is considered an indispensable necessity in many households. The *Putnam News*, edited by sons of Doctor Bronson, had a brief existence. A cheerful *Sunbeam*, lighting upon Putnam in 1882, has developed into a dignified *Windham County Standard* through the energy and perseverance of its editor and proprietor, Mr. N. W. Kennedy. The *Standard* is a vivacious and enterprising journal, ferreting out news from every corner of the county, and has a wide and increasing circulation.

Putnam's "Brass Bands" deserve to be classed among its most conspicuous institutions, sounding forth its praise and progress in various places and occasions. Both represent a vast amount of patience and self-denying practice. It is said that Father Vygen encouraged the early neophytes of St. Mary's Band by himself taking the field and playing on the instruments with them. The Mechanics' Band has been in existence about a quarter of a century, and was fostered and encouraged by musical veterans of the village. Its roll of membership includes many of Putnam's honored citizens. Its chief founder was the late Professor Goodspeed, a very thorough and successful music teacher, widely known throughout the county. Under his guidance the band made rapid progress, and was soon able to play a prominent part at public gatherings, assisting at many of Woodstock's famous mass meetings and other patriotic demonstrations all over the country. A corporate body, for a time "it held the Fort" at Mechanics' Park, giving weekly concerts and entertainments. A history of Mechanics' Band, with its roll of membership and varied experiences, would have great interest.

St. Mary's Band was organized about 1867, through the agency of Reverend E. J. Vygen. Its first public performance was at the memorable reception of President Grant in 1870. Through the instructions of C. G. Marcy it attained high musical proficiency, and has continued to advance, taking a prominent part on public occasions.

Putnam's demonstrations in welcome of the president and great commander were noteworthy. The streets were very gaily decorated and thronged with thousands of spectators. Soldiers and citizens were alike in line. The "pyramids" of children in red, white and blue, artistically arranged by Father Vygen on the church grounds, were especially noted and admired.

One of Putnam's achievements, encouraged and helped on by her newspapers, was the "Antique Art Loan Exhibition," held in March, 1880, in honor of her twenty-fifth anniversary. It was perhaps an answer to the charge of extreme youth brought by jealous contemporaries that this especial form of birthday observation was devised. Youthful emulation, directed by experienced connoisseurs, brought together in Quinebaug Hall a most remarkable collection of nearly three thousand articles, many of them of great interest and value. Old-time life and customs might be very vividly reconstructed by a careful study of these ancient relics. Pictures and portraits of the early residents of the county were of great interest. The only regret was that the exhibition could not have been more lasting and enjoyed by a larger number, the mud and winds of March preventing a large attendance. Mr. Darius S. Skinner, chairman of the committee, was most active in devising and carrying forward this exhibition. A large number of ladies and gentlemen also served on the committee.

The recent visit of President Harrison and members of his cabinet excited much interest. The distinguishing honor done to Windham county in being permitted to receive and entertain the chief magistrate of the great republic was more fully appreciated than ever before, and Putnam, with great heartiness and unanimity, roused itself to meet the occasion worthily. The committee of arrangements, comprising many of Putnam's leading citizens, James W. Manning, chairman, together with many organizations and private citizens, vied with each other in arranging and perfecting every detail needful for the appropriate

reception of the distinguished guests. But "time and tide" are beyond human control, and the protracted storm brooding over New England paid no heed to presidential visitation. In spite of delay and discomfort, Putnam did its part nobly, with some, perhaps, unavoidable omissions. Its streets were as gay as bunting and flags could make them, Each building had its specific devices and decorations; children in gay attire, representing the forty-two states, on one side; another bevy in white, each carrying a flag, on the other; the prosaic iron bridge transformed into a bower of verdure and beauty, flowers and pennons jauntily floating, in spite of the sombre sky. Joseph McKachnie served as grand marshal of the day, supported by aids, Major H. W. Johnson and Captain A. M. Parker. The veterans of the Grand Army, 140 strong, appeared in tasteful new uniform in honor of the occasion. Company F, from Danielsonville, and Company G, from Putnam, assisted in the procession, together with Putnam's two musical bands, its fire department of 60 men, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, 100 men, and St. Jean Baptiste Society, 300 men, all in radiant uniform and regalia, making a beautiful array as they received the presidential party and escorted it through the limits of Putnam. As on the previous occasion, the ingenuity of Reverend Father Vygen furnished an unique feature of the reception. Driven by the rain from a position by the ruins of the Catholic church, an impromptu scenic representation was arranged within the portals of the convent, its central figure hundreds of happy children in tiers of red, white and blue, massed up to the second story. Ringing bells, booming cannon, inspiring music, waving banners, hearty cheers and hurrahs, added to the impressiveness of the exhibition, which called out much admiration and praise from the president and other spectators.

After town organization, the lack of a suitable burial place was painfully apparent. Having in his possession near his residence a tract of land (a part of the old "Mighill Farm," Killingly) which he deemed especially suitable for this purpose, Chandler Spalding offered it to the town for a public burying ground. The town instructed its selectmen to purchase the ground, but its many urgent burdens and expenses compelled delay and reconsideration, during which interval Mr. Spalding proceeded to lay out the land and prepare a cemetery. July 4th, 1856, the first interment was made. Many persons secured lots,

and the ground was constantly improved and beautified by Mr. Spalding till, in 1866, he conveyed it to the Putnam Cemetery Association, formed by citizens of the town desirous of having said cemetery hereafter well cared for, protected and further improved and enlarged. These desires have been satisfactorily accomplished, and the Putnam Cemetery is regarded with much interest and pride, and is every year freshly consecrated by memorial prayers and offerings. President of the association, Otis E. Keith; secretary and treasurer, Charles N. Fenn.

A little east of the modern cemetery, overgrown and enmatted with tangled shrubs and vines, is the lot of land given to the town of Killingly for a burial place by its most honored citizen, Peter Aspinwall. Mouldering stones bearing the names of the earliest settlers of this vicinity, are to be found there. Killingly's choicest worthies, Captain Joseph Cady and Justice Joseph Leavens, its first ministers, Reverends John Fisk, Perley Howe and Aaron Brown, its town fathers and town mothers for at least two generations, were interred in this time honored grave yard. A tombstone under a spreading pine tree tells the sad fate of the young bride of Othniel Brown, August 13th, 1786:

“ That awful day, the hurricane
When I was in my prime
Blew down the house, and I was slain
And taken out of time.”

The laying out of other burial grounds led to the partial abandonment and neglect of this most interesting ground, but recently it has received more attention, and it is hoped that it may be more thoroughly restored as an unique memorial of the past.

The Pomfret Factory burying ground, on the Pomfret road, west of the former home of Mr. Wilkinson, is no longer in existence. This land was probably devoted to this purpose by Captain Cargill, his little granddaughter, Laura Waldo, being the first person there buried. Included without reservation in the sale of the Cargill land, it was freely used by persons in the vicinity, particularly by the descendants of Captain John Sabin. As the old families became extinct and the land more valuable, it was devoted to other uses. Such stones as were sufficiently preserved were removed to the new cemetery.

The cheerful and well kept burial ground at Putnam Heights is of comparatively modern origin. The first person buried

there was Captain Luther Warren, who died August 9th, 1839. The venerated pastor, Priest Atkins, was also buried there, and many of the later residents of the village and vicinity.

While Putnam village, in a certain sense, absorbs and dominates the town, the outlying portions have yet a distinct character and life of their own. Two miles east of the busy village old Killingly hill reposes in serene tranquility. Transformed in name to Putnam Heights, with new elements and new inhabitants, this ancient village still retains its primitive characteristics. Business has long since flown to the valley. Its one church maintains but intermittent service; its one school is scantily attended, and modern institutions fail to gain a footing; yet this very repose and fixedness, as contrasted with the rush and tumult of everyday life, have a peculiar charm, and the wearied denizens of "the tired city's mart" welcome this place of refuge. A number of families, more or less associated with the hill, have permanent summer homes here. Mr. T. J. Thurber, formerly of New York, continues through the year. The recent discovery of a spring of delicious water, with its appropriation of the beautiful Indian name of this section, may prove an additional attraction. Aspinock spring and the old hill, with its pure air and wide outlook, merit a larger constituency. "Beautiful for situation," commanding one of the finest views in the county, with its well-established church and common, Killingly hill was long a leading business and social center, especially noted for its popular taverns and largely-frequented trainings. Probably the hill reached its acme of fame and prosperity soon after the arrival of the cotton factory, when proprietors and operatives from Pomfret factory, Howe's factory and "The Stone Chapel" sought spiritual and secular privileges at its meeting house and store. The store kept by those enterprising merchants, Ely & Torrey, exceeded anything in eastern Connecticut. Thurber's tailor shop was almost equally celebrated, supplying young men far and near with wedding and "freedom" suits, and fashionable long surtouts. The private class or school of "Priest Atkins" was another peculiar institution of Killingly hill, filling the place of the present State Normal school, in fitting young men and women to become thorough and successful teachers. "Choice spirits" on the hill forwarded the organization of the first missionary and Bible societies of Windham county, one hundred and twenty-two ladies in North Killingly and Thompson organ-

izing as a "Female Tract Society" in 1816, while spirits of a very different order were lavishly dispensed from Warren's tavern—the headquarters of mirth and conviviality. A large circle of relatives and friends enjoyed the delightful hospitalities of Justice Sampson Howe's genial household, and a still wider constituency bowed in meek submission before the dictum and prescriptions of Doctor Grosvenor.

The old "Moffats Mills," at East Putnam, established in time immemorial by an early Killingly family, is still represented. A second grist mill was built on the same site by James Cady. In 1860 Calvin and William Randall bought a privilege on the same Bowditch brook, and built a small mill for the manufacture of cotton yarn. The whole establishment and privileges were purchased by G. A. Hawkins and Augustus Houghton in 1865. They doubled the capacity of the mill, put up new buildings and made many improvements. C. J. Alton succeeded Mr. Hawkins in ownership. Houghton & Alton have sold their interest to Norwich owners, who as the "East Putnam Yarn Company" employ about twenty-five hands, and manufacture 3,500 pounds of cotton yarn weekly. Pleasant residences and a neat little Free Will Baptist church are to be found there. Mr. Houghton sided generously in repairing this edifice and maintaining stated worship. Its pastor, Mrs. Fenner, has done much valuable missionary work in the vicinity. The Cady mills, at the Four Corners and near the state line, have been maintained, with intervals of suspension, for many years. This eastern part of Putnam, formerly traversed twice a day by the convenient Providence stage coach, has been left behind and thrown backward by the all conquering railroad, while the valley west of the town has been built up by the same arbitrary power. Many new houses and families appear in the old Gary district. Population year by year stretches farther southward. The old families are mostly gone. Mr. Ezra Dresser still occupies one of the old Dresser homesteads, the other is improved as the town farm. The name of Gary, once so familiar, is transferred to westward towns, where it bears an honorable record. Judge Gary, of Chicago, descends from the old Pomfret family. The Holmes's, Sawyers, Gilberts are mostly gone. Even the Perrin family, so associated with the valley, is no longer represented. The old Perrin house has also passed away.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

WILLIAM S. ARNOLD.—Andrew Arnold, the grandfather of William S. Arnold, married Catherine Reynolds, of North Kingstown, Rhode Island. Their children were two in number, Philip being the survivor. He was born in Warwick, and married Catherine, daughter of William Searls, and granddaughter of Richard Searls, of Cranston, Rhode Island. The children of Philip and Catherine Arnold were: Andrew R., born in 1810; William S., November 3d, 1811; Albert H., in 1813; George E., in 1816; Jabez, in 1818; Susan E., in 1821; Henry R., in 1823; and Catherine M., in 1827.

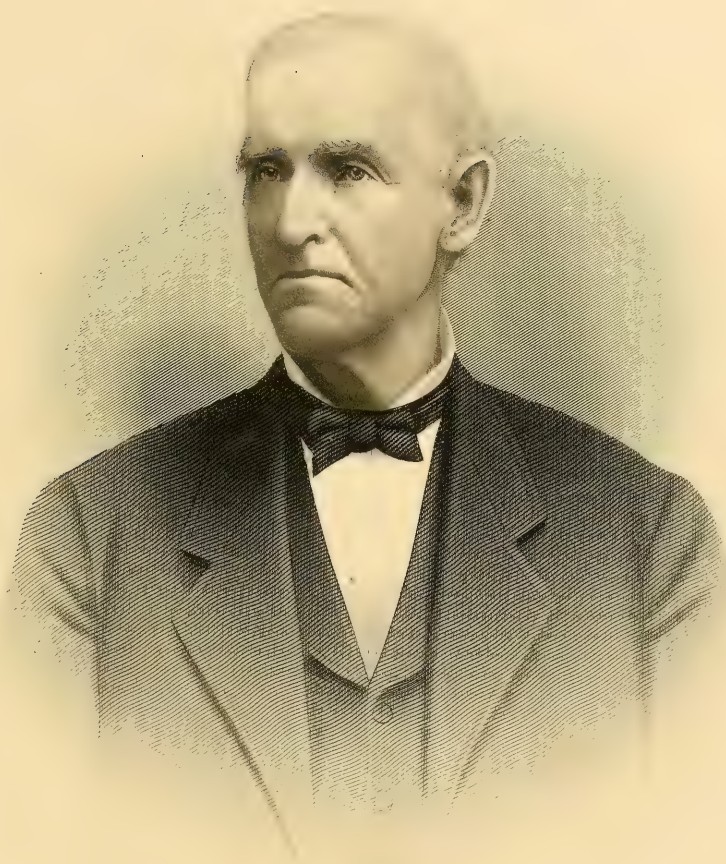
William S. Arnold, who is a native of Warwick, Rhode Island, at the age of seven years accompanied his father to Woodstock, Connecticut, where, until seventeen, he attended the common schools in winter and spent the summer months on the farm. He then removed to Masonville, in Thompson, and until 1841 filled the position of clerk, subsequently acquiring an interest in the store and cotton factory owned by the Masonville Company. In 1852 he became the exclusive owner of the store, and conducted the business successfully and profitably until the fall of 1867. Mr. Arnold having devoted his whole life without cessation to active business, then determined to retire from trade, and accordingly on the disposal of his interest became a man of leisure. He resided in East Greenwich and North Kingstown, and at other points where he found congenial surroundings, until 1884, when his present house near Putnam was purchased. Mr. Arnold was formerly a whig, and on the formation of the republican party joined its ranks. He has, however, been content to exercise the privilege of the ballot without controlling the offices within its gift. His pleasures have been found amid the peaceful scenes of domestic life rather than in the excitements attending a public career.

Mr. Arnold in 1836 married Lucina, daughter of Lot Underwood, of Pomfret, who died in September, 1865. Their children are: Harriet A., wife of Jacob F. Tourtellotte, of Winona, Minnesota, and Nason Henry, deceased, who married Mary Newman. Mr. Arnold was again married in 1886 to Mary E., daughter of Alphonso Williams, of West Glocester, Rhode Island, a descendant of Roger Williams.

GEORGE BUCK.—David Buck removed from Massachusetts to the part of Killingly now embraced in the town of Putnam, where he conducted a farm and also carried on the trade of a joiner. He was known as an enterprising and successful business man. His children by a first marriage were three sons, David, Jonathan and Aaron, and four daughters, Mrs. Josiah Dean, Mrs. Benjamin Cutler, and two who married Resolved Wheaton. By a second marriage was born a son, David, and a daughter, Eliza, who became Mrs. Henry Adams. Aaron, of this number, was born on the homestead farm in Killingly, upon a portion of which he settled and resided during his lifetime. He married Annie, daughter of Asa Lawrence, of Killingly, whose children were: Lucy, wife of Calvin Leffingwell; Rosamund, wife of Calvin Boyden; Mary, married to Jesse Herendein; Annie, wife of Caleb Howe; Erastus, Elisha, Augustus and George.

The last named of these brothers, and the subject of this biographical sketch, was born October 13th, 1810, in Killingly, and until his twentieth year devoted his time to the work of the farm. He enjoyed but limited opportunities of education, and soon found employment in a cotton mill. This not being altogether to his taste, he became one of the leading builders and contractors of the day. For ten years he was employed by Messrs. M. S. Morse & Co. and Messrs. G. C. Nightingale & Co., in connection with the construction and improvement of their property, after which he embarked in building, and dealt to some extent in real estate at the same time. For twenty years he has been the trusted guardian of the real estate and other property owned by Thomas Harris in Putnam.

Mr. Buck has been more or less prominent in affairs connected with his county, was for three terms county commissioner, for five years selectman of the town, and served for the session of 1878-79 as a member of the Connecticut house of representatives. In politics he was first a federalist, afterward became identified with the free soil party, whose principles he espoused with much earnestness, and is now a strong prohibitionist. Since the age of eighteen he has practiced total abstinence, and made it one of the guiding principles of his life. He joined the Congregational church in North Killingly at the age of twenty-one, and later became a member of the Putnam Congregational church. The earliest edifice of the latter church he was largely instrumental in erecting, and did much to advance the interests of the



W. F. KOPPEL, N.Y.

George Buck

W. F. KOPPEL, N.Y.





A. D. Bates

society. Mr. Buck in 1831 married Phila Williams, of Ashford, Connecticut. He was a second time married in December, 1867, to Sarah Maria, daughter of Colonel Erastus Lester, of Plainfield.

GUSTAVUS DAVIS BATES.—Tyler Bates, the grandfather of Gustavus D. Bates, was a prosperous farmer in Thompson. His children were Erastus, William, Welcome, Holman, George T., Ann, Chloe, Betsey and Sally. Welcome Bates, also a resident of Thompson, was formerly engaged in teaching, and in his later years became a farmer. He married Jemima E., daughter of Reverend James Grow, of Vermont. Their children are: Elizabeth G., Hannah Augusta, wife of Horatio H. Hutchins; Sarah, deceased; Marvin G., Gustavus Davis, Sarah Jane 2d, deceased, and Welcome E.

Gustavus Davis Bates was born October 2d, 1839, in Thompson, where he remained until his twentieth year, receiving his education at the public school and the Thompson academy. He was industriously employed either in a factory or on a farm until sixteen, when his attention was turned to teaching, his field of labor being first in Burrillville, R. I., and later in Thompson. At the age of eighteen the young man entered a store at Grosvenor Dale as clerk, and was thus engaged until his majority was attained, when he enrolled his name as a private in the Seventh Rhode Island regiment during the late war. His promotion, the result of merit, was rapid from corporal to sergeant, first sergeant, second lieutenant, first lieutenant, and acting quartermaster and adjutant. In July, 1864, he was made captain of his former company. Late in 1864 he was brevetted lieutenant colonel, and secured while in front of Petersburg, Va., leave of absence on account of failing health, which fact finally occasioned his resignation.

Colonel Bates participated in the engagements at Fredericksburg, Vicksburg, Jackson, the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Bethesda Church, North Anna River, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and Weldon Railroad, after which his regiment went into winter quarters. On regaining his health he returned again to civil life and embarked in the manufacture of flannel shirts in Worcester, Mass., but met with financial reverses. As an instance of the integrity that has characterized his business career it may be mentioned that afterward, in more prosperous days, he paid all his obligations with interest. The colonel then

represented Boston houses for ten years, as traveling agent in the sale of gentlemen's furnishing goods, and after an interval of rest assumed the management of the business of George B. Cluett & Co., large shirt and collar manufacturers in New York city. In 1884 he established the Connecticut Clothing Company in Putnam, with a branch at Southbridge, Mass., to which he devotes as much attention as is consistent with his other business projects. In 1886, in company with a partner, he founded the Putnam Cutlery Corporation, of which he is secretary, treasurer and manager. He is also president of the Putnam Pump & Hose Reel Company.

Colonel Bates has been prominently identified with the republican party in politics, and represented his constituents in the Connecticut legislature in 1887 and 1888, on which occasion he was chairman of the committee on cities and boroughs. He was in 1888 a delegate to the national republican convention convened at Chicago. In addition to his various business enterprises he is a successful farmer and breeder of blooded stock. He is a member of A. G. Warner Post, of the G. A. R., and of Quinnatisset Grange, No. 65, of Thompson. His religious views are in harmony with the creed of the Baptist church, of which he is a member. Colonel Bates on the 17th of June, 1867, married Ellen A., daughter of Benjamin F. Hutchins, of Putnam.

JOHN A. CARPENTER.—Robert Carpenter, of Greenwich, R. I., the great-grandfather of John A. Carpenter, on the 26th of October, 1755, married Charity Roberts, of Warwick, in the same state. Their children were: Christopher, John, Phebe and Marcy. John of this number, who resided in West Greenwich, married Sarah Stone, and had children: Christopher, Phebe, Patience, Robert and Amos. The last-named and youngest of these children, Amos, on the 19th of June, 1813, married Mary, daughter of Joseph Bailey, of West Greenwich. Their children were: Maria, Sarah C., Marcy S., Patience S., Olive B., George W., John A., Charles B. and Mary E., of whom five are deceased.

John Anthony, the second son, was born June 23d, 1828, in West Greenwich, and at the age of eight years removed to Putnam, then Pomfret, where he pursued his studies at the district school, and meanwhile until 1846 assisted his father in the work of the farm. He then engaged in teaching in the schools of Putnam and vicinity, the intervals when not thus occupied being



John A. Carpenter



John O'Hox

employed as before, on his father's farm. In 1857 he entered the office of the Morse Mills Company as accountant, paymaster and manager of the merchandise department, and remained thus occupied until 1866, when he was elected cashier of the First National Bank of Putnam, of which he was one of the incorporators, and has since that time been its active manager. He was the treasurer of the Putnam Savings Bank from 1866 to 1874, and on his resignation from that office continued to act as one of its trustees. Mr. Carpenter was, irrespective of party ties, elected judge of probate for the Putnam district in 1863 and has since that time held the office. He has filled various local positions, and cordially supported all measures tending to the advancement of the town, and its material prosperity. His sympathy with the cause of education assumed practical form in the aid he gave with others, toward the establishment of a high school in Putnam, when a member of the school board of the town.

Mr. Carpenter has been twice married. He was first united to Ann Elizabeth, daughter of Byram and Nancy Johnson Williams. Their two children are Nancy Janette (deceased) and Byram Williams. Mrs. Carpenter died August 12th, 1856, and he married a second time, Marcia J., daughter of Moses Chandler, whose ancestors settled in Woodstock in 1686. Their three children are: Jane Elizabeth, wife of Edgar Morris Warner; Anna Chandler and John Frederick.

JOHN O. FOX was the son of Captain Abiel Fox and his wife Judith Perry. He was born in West Woodstock, July 5th, 1817, and received his education at the common schools near his home, and at the Nichols Academy, at Dudley. His father kept a store at Woodstock, but later removed to Providence, where he was the landlord of a popular public house, well known as "Fox's Tavern." On his decease the family returned to Woodstock. Mr. Fox, before his majority was attained, had formed a copartnership with his brother-in-law, John P. Chamberlin, in trade, and in the manufacture of shoes. They were successful until the financial crisis of 1837, which swept away not only the firm of Chamberlin & Fox, but many other business men of the town. In this failure was involved not only the patrimony, but the earnings of Mr. Fox, and a new start in life was the only alternative. He therefore, in 1840, removed to Putnam, then a rising young village, and was soon appointed to the charge of the depot. This connection was maintained for a period of

thirty years, and he himself was the headquarters for the marketing of much of the produce for the adjoining towns, which was shipped to Boston and Providence. He kept for years the only livery stable in the town, and was the first person to bring finished lumber into the place for building purposes.

He was one of the leading and influential men of the town, foremost in every enterprise resulting in its growth and development, and ever ready to fill any local office, however inconvenient, that was bestowed upon him. He was for years a director of both the First National Bank and the Savings Bank of Putnam. In all his relations, whether of a public nature or connected with private business, his course was characterized by the most absolute integrity. He was a man of indomitable will and unbounded perseverance, acting in all things consistently with his view of the subject, irrespective of the opinion of the majority. In politics a democrat, he was never offensive, yet always ready to defend his convictions. Self-reliant, observant, and possessing excellent judgment, his business career readily marked him as a successful man. Mr. Fox, in connection with his lumber interests, purchased a tract of land in Florida, which he devoted to the uses of an orange grove. Here he was accustomed to spend his winters, and each succeeding season found him looking forward with great pleasure to his period of rest in the South.

In 1848 Mr. Fox married Miss Eliza Phillips, whose two children are a son, John O., Jr., and a daughter, Hattie. The death of John O. Fox occurred in Florida, on the 11th of February, 1889.

LUCIUS H. FULLER.—Both English and Scotch blood coursed through the veins of Mr. Fuller's ancestors. His great-grandfather, Deacon Abijah Fuller, had the honor of assisting in the fortification of Bunker Hill, on which occasion he directed the throwing up of the earthworks the night before the battle. He died in 1835 in Hampton, where he was a farmer and a leading citizen. He married Abigail Meacham, whose children were: Abigail, Lois, Arthur, Seymour, Clarissa and Luther. Seymour Fuller resided in Hampton, his birthplace, until 1816, the date of his removal to Tolland, Conn. He married in 1811, Louisa, daughter of William Butler and his wife, Louisa Huntington. Their children were: Lucius S., Abigail, wife of Sylvander Harwood, Caroline C., William B. and Melissa J.; of whom Lucius



Lucius H. Allen

S. is the only survivor. He was born March 12th, 1812, in Hampton, and now resides in Tolland, where he has been a foremost citizen and prominently identified with both county and state affairs. He married July 4th, 1838, Mary Eliza, daughter of John Bliss, Esq., and his wife Sally Abbott, of Tolland. They celebrated their golden wedding July 4th, 1888. Their two surviving children are Lucius H. and Edward E.

Lucius H. was born August 31st, 1849, in Tolland, and received a high school and academic education. On returning from school, after a brief interval on the farm, he removed to Putnam in February, 1868, and engaged in the insurance business, representing, as agent, many of the most important fire insurance companies in the country. This has, under his able management, grown and extended itself until it now takes rank as one of the most important agencies in the state, outside of the cities. Mr. Fuller is also interested in various other enterprises; he is president of the Putnam Water Company, having been one of its earnest promoters and warmest advocates; treasurer of the Putnam Dairy Company; director of the Putnam Foundry Corporation, of the Mystic Valley Water Company, the Palatka Water Company, of Florida, and also of the Tolland Fire Insurance Company. He has been an earnest worker for the town of Putnam and its material prosperity, having at times influenced the investment of considerable capital at this point. As a republican he was twice elected to the office of justice of the peace, but each time declined to act. He is now serving for the second term as member of the school board, and is also at present one of the acting visitors. He is greatly interested in the fire department, of which he was for many years chief engineer, and has been warden of the fire district, of which he was one of the principal promoters.

Mr. Fuller was in 1881 elected to the Connecticut house of representatives from Putnam, and reelected in 1882, making an excellent record. He is the present senator from the Sixteenth district, being chairman of the committee on incorporations, one of the most important committees in the legislature. He has also been a delegate to various state conventions. As a public speaker he has gained something more than local prominence; his ease and fluency in this respect having aided greatly in his political advancement, besides giving him a leading position as a legislator.

Mr. Fuller was on the 31st of August, 1871, married to Helen A., daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth Briggs, of Pomfret, who died May 21st, 1875, leaving one son, Maurice Bernard, born May 7th, 1874. He was again married June 30th, 1880, to Abby Clara, daughter of Joseph W. and Abigail N. Cundall, of Worcester, Mass., who died November 10th, 1884, leaving a son, born on the 7th of August, 1881.

GEORGE W. HOLT, JR.—Jonathan Holt, a soldier of the revolution, was the father of Josiah Holt, a native of Hampton, Conn., who during his active life followed the trade of a machinist. He married Mary Prior, who became the mother of a large family, the eldest son, William L., being well-known as a successful manufacturer, and a man of much mechanical skill, both in New England and in the South, to which section he subsequently removed. Another son, George W. Holt, the father of the subject of this biography, was born March 16th, 1816, in Plainfield, Conn., and in 1831 removed to Slatersville, R. I., where he remained until 1870, when Providence became and is at present his home. Entering the cotton mills when a boy he rose through the successive grades, finally becoming superintendent, agent and part owner. Having abandoned active business he still continues the efficient president of the Monohansett Manufacturing Company. Mr. Holt was on the 3d of September, 1839, married to Lucy Dodge, daughter of Barney Dodge, of Smithfield, R. I. Their children are a son, George W., Jr., and a daughter, Ellen Porter.

George W. Holt, Jr., was born July 21st, 1840, in Slatersville, where his early education was received at the village school. In 1857 he became a pupil of the Phillips Academy, at Andover, Mass., and one year later entered the Scientific Department of Brown University, where he completed a two years' course of study. His father was at this time manager of the Slatersville Mills, and also engaged in building and starting the Forestdale Mills, in which Mr. Holt became assistant superintendent, and continued to act in that capacity for ten years. He then spent a year in Providence, and in 1871 came to Putnam, as superintendent for the Monohansett Manufacturing Company, which had become lessees of certain manufacturing property and water power at that point. The business which had been conducted under a partnership with Estus Lamb and George W. Holt as the owners, was in 1882 incorporated as the company above



Geo W Holt Jr.

mentioned. Mr. Holt on his advent in Putnam assumed charge of the property, placed the machinery, started the mills and acted as superintendent until 1888, when he became agent, having since the date of incorporation had an interest in the business. The product of the mills consists of plain sheetings and shirtings, for which New York city affords a ready market. Mr. Holt has been since 1873 a member of the board of trustees of the Putnam Savings Bank, and has interested himself in various enterprises tending to advance the growth of the village, especially in the introduction of the electric light. As a republican he was elected to the Connecticut house of representatives for the session of 1889, and served as chairman of the committee on manufactures.

Mr. Holt married November 6th, 1865, Marion A., daughter of Estes Burdon, of Blackstone, Mass., who died soon after. He was again married April 27th, 1872, to Rosalie F., daughter of Samuel F. Dyer, of North Kingstown, R. I. Their children are a son, William Franklin, now a pupil of the Greenwich Academy, at Greenwich, Conn., and Mary Florence, who is pursuing her studies in the Putnam High School.

JAMES WINCHELL MANNING.—The earliest representative of the Manning family in America emigrated from England in 1634 and settled in the suburbs of Boston, Mass. Ephraim, representing the third generation in line of descent, located in Woodstock, Windham county, where he lived and died. His son William was a patriot, held a commission as captain during the war of the revolution, and served until the close of the conflict. His children were six daughters and two sons, William H., the youngest son, being a native of Woodstock, where his birth occurred September 10th, 1776. He later removed to Pomfret, where he died in June, 1862. By his marriage to Lucy Tucker were born five children: Lory, Mary, Ephraim, Lucy and William. He married a second time Lois Paine, of Pomfret, whose children are: James W., John M., Henry F., Edward P. and Edward P., 2d. The survivors of this number are William, John M. and James W.

James W. was born in Pomfret March 8th, 1822, and remained until his twenty-fifth year a resident of that town. He was educated at the Thompson and Woodstock Academies, and the Connecticut Literary Institution, at Suffield, meanwhile at intervals giving a hand at the work of the farm. He then

accepted a clerkship and served for two years in that capacity, removing in 1847 to Putnam, where he embarked in the dry goods trade. This business he has continued until the present time, either alone or with partners, the present firm of Manning & Leonard having existed since 1869.

Mr. Manning has been prominent in local affairs, and on the organization of the town of Putnam was elected the first town clerk, which office he has held continuously until the present time. He has also filled the offices of town treasurer and registrar of births and marriages. He was in 1866, as a republican, elected a member of the Connecticut house of representatives, and in 1869-71-72 filled the office of state comptroller. He was for many years a director and is now the president of the First National Bank of Putnam, as also one of the incorporators of the Putnam Savings Bank. He has, from the organization of the town, manifested the deepest interest in its moral and material advancement, and was on its formation president of the Business Men's Association of Putnam, which has proved a powerful agent in its commercial development. Mr. Manning is a member and deacon of the Baptist church of Putnam. He is a firm believer in the truths of Christianity and lends a willing hand to the support and propagation of the gospel. In the days when the question of slavery was agitated with much personal bitterness, he was an avowed abolitionist.

Mr. Manning was, on the 5th of May, 1846, married to Emily, daughter of Daniel Fitts, of Pomfret. Their only child is a daughter, Helen A., wife of Doctor J. B. Kent, of Putnam.

MILTON STRATTON MORSE.—Oliver Morse, the father of Milton Stratton Morse, and a native of Sharon, Massachusetts, was first a carpenter, then a farmer. He married Waitstill Stratton, of Foxboro, where their son, Milton Stratton, was born, December 25th, 1799. When very young his father removed to Wrentham, Massachusetts, the scene of Milton's earliest connection with cotton manufacturing. He began work in a small factory, his first task being that of picking cotton and placing it on the cards, which labor was continued for two years. He was then apprenticed to the blacksmith's trade, but the terms of the contract not being complied with, he returned home at the age of thirteen, his father having removed his family to Attleboro, while he sought employment at Pawtucket. The lad remained



Yours truly

James W. Manning

at home about a year, engaged in braiding straw and picking cotton by hand for firms in Pawtucket. He next worked for Zeba Kent, in his mill at Seekonk and on his farm, often going to the woods with two yoke of oxen and a horse to load ship timber destined for the shipyards at Warwick, Rhode Island.

Early in 1815 his father removed to a farm in East Providence, where his son assisted him for a year, subsequently living with his uncle at Foxboro. At the end of a year he entered a cotton mill at Attleboro, and was speedily made overseer of the card room. In this room was a pair of mules, and by their aid he learned mule spinning. A year and a half later he removed to East Wrentham, near the Foxboro line, and assumed charge of the carding and spinning in Blake's factory for about two years. After a brief interval spent in farming he assumed charge of the mule spinning in a mill at Walpole, remained at this point one year, and then became superintendent of Elisha Sherman's factory at Foxboro, where warps were manufactured by contract for firms in Pawtucket. After spending a year at Foxboro he assumed charge of a mill in North Attleboro, devoted to the manufacture of cotton sewing thread. Though this business, being in competition with that of Coates and other English manufacturers, was regarded as a difficult one, Mr. Morse resolved to teach inexperienced operatives to perform it—a policy which he carried out with such success that a half century ago he was able to make, from Sea Island cotton, yarns of No. 130, or one hundred and thirty skeins to the pound.

After an engagement of one year with the Manville Company at Cumberland, Rhode Island, he assumed charge for a brief time of the carding room of a mill at Central Falls, in the same state, and a few months later formed a copartnership with Avery Gilmore, under the firm name of Morse & Gilmore, for the manufacture of cotton goods. Hiring a small mill at Central Falls, they effected a contract with Crawford Allen, of Providence, to stock the mill and sell the goods on commission. They soon established a profitable business, which continued for three years, when Mr. Morse sold his interest. During this period he was also engaged for a year in running the Lefavor mill at Pawtucket. In 1832 he took the Lyman mill at Woonsocket, ran it by contract for Crawford Allen, and removed with his family to that town. In 1833, in connection with Mr. Allen, he purchased the Abbott Run mills at Cumberland, and transferring his res-

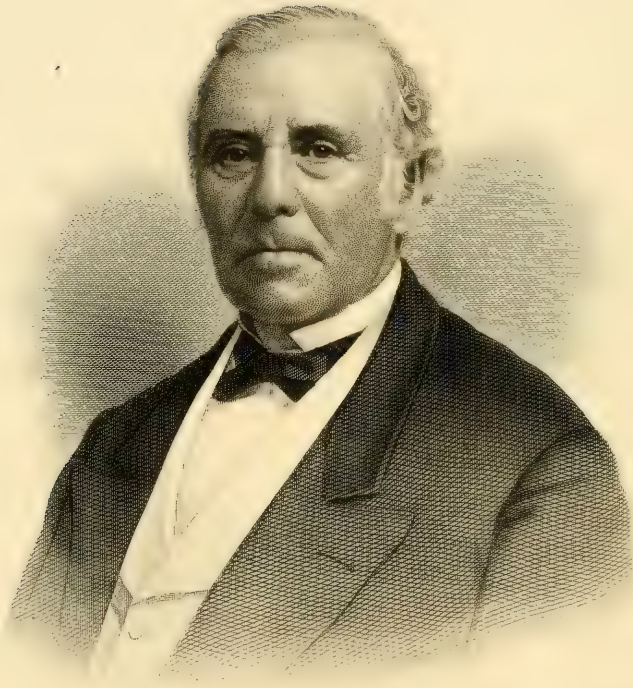
idence to Valley Falls, assumed charge of the property, repaired the old and put in much new machinery. He continued in the ownership of this property, his half interest having been increased by the addition of a fourth interest. In 1842 and 1843 he ran by contract a mill at Valley Falls owned by Mr. Allen, and also one owned by Henry Marchant, of Providence. The latter contract, which was for three years, was broken by the owner of the mills on finding that Mr. Morse was making the mills profitable.

In 1843, in connection with Mr. Allen, Mr. Morse operated the Arkwright Mills, at Cranston, Rhode Island, of which he assumed the superintendence. In this relation he continued for eleven years. In 1844 the machinery was removed from the Valley Falls mills to a brick mill then recently built at Putnam, Connecticut, and owned by Mr. George C. Nightingale, of Providence; and in 1857 machinery was brought from a factory at Greenville, Rhode Island, to the present stone mill belonging to Mr. Nightingale. These mills were successfully operated by Mr. Morse under contract. In 1848 the large stone mill known as the Morse mill was built and operated by M. S. Morse, G. C. Nightingale and S. Dorr, Jr., of Providence, the mill and village around it having grown up in a single year. In 1862 Mr. Morse, with his brother Alfred, purchased a cotton factory at Holden and one at Farnumsville, both in Massachusetts. He later disposed of the latter and became sole owner of the former interest. Messrs. Morse & Nightingale erected in 1872 the Powhatan mill, at the privilege above that which furnishes power for the mills owned by them at Putnam.

Mr. Morse married on the 30th of September, 1824, Susanna Blake, of Wrentham, Mass. Of their four children, the eldest, Stillman F., was drowned at Valley Falls in his thirteenth year. The surviving children are: George M., born at Central Falls August 25th, 1830; Fanny B., born at Valley Falls October 3d, 1834, and married to Andrew J. Crossman, of Providence, and Susan A., born at Valley Falls August 24th, 1838, and married to Henry A. Munroe, also of Providence. Although Mr. Morse lived to reach the border of four score years, he continued in the active supervision of his affairs until his death on the 17th of May, 1877, the result of an injury received three days previously.

Mr. Morse was much interested in the political events of his





Milton S. Morse



George M. Morse
#

day, and willingly co-operated in the various projects which resulted in benefit to the state and country. He, however, never aspired to office, being always engrossed in the care of his important business. His untiring ambition, accompanied with sound judgment, led to success as a business manager. During a period of forty years he never failed to meet his obligations or fulfill all financial contracts. Socially he was approachable to the most humble individual in his employ, and on his decease more than a thousand employés felt the loss of a benefactor and friend.

GEORGE M. MORSE, the second son of Milton S. and Susanna Blake Morse, spent his youth in and about the city of Providence. His early years were devoted to study at the schools of Providence, where he remained until the age of eighteen, when on removing to Putnam he interested himself for a year in the store belonging to the company with which his father was connected. Again making Providence his home, he spent several years in that city, and at Putnam, ultimately locating in the spring of 1856 in the latter place, where he was made the superintendent of the Morse mills. This responsible position he filled for many years and finally assumed the entire management of the property. In 1869 the company was granted a charter, and the year following Mr. Morse became one of the corporate owners. The Nightingale mills under the firm name of M. S. Morse & Son, were from 1858 to 1868 operated by the yard. In 1872 the Powhatan mills were erected under the personal supervision of Mr. Morse, who superintended every detail of their construction, placed the machinery, and successfully started them. Of the three corporations located at Putnam, Milton S. Morse and his son were the managers, the entire responsibility devolving upon the subject of this sketch on the death of his father. He still continues the competent head of this extensive manufacturing interest, of which his eldest son, Augustus I., is the superintendent. Mr. Morse is president of both the Morse and Powhatan companies, president of the Abbott Run mills at Cumberland, R. I., and a third owner and manager of the Holden cotton mills at Holden, Mass.

Mr. Morse is much absorbed in the varied duties pertaining to his business, and has neither taste nor leisure for matters of a political character. He is a firm advocate of the principles of the republican party, and in full sympathy with the protective

tariff views which it endorses. He has done much to promote the cause of education in his town, is a member of the managing committee, and was one of the building committee of the high school recently erected in Putnam. Mr. Morse may, with great propriety, be spoken of in connection with his sympathy and interest in all forms of Christian work. He became a member of the Baptist church of Putnam in April, 1858, in which he is a deacon, and among its most liberal supporters. His Christianity finds expression in earnest Christian labor, in a broad sympathy for his fellow-men of whatever class or condition, and in a cheerful and spontaneous giving. Not restricted by rules or tenets, he gives with a firm belief that he is simply the custodian of means which should be devoted to the glory of God and the welfare of others.

Mr. Morse was married April 13th, 1851, to Melora, daughter of Whitford Whitney of Killingly, Conn. Their children are five sons and five daughters, as follows: Frances S., deceased; Ida A., wife of Charles M. Fenner; Augustus I., married to Anne G. Dyer; Stillman F., married to Emma L. Leonard; Milton S., married to Eloise H. Busiel; George Byron, married to Maud L. Alden; Hattie M., wife of Charles Albert Luke; Alice M., wife of James Eugene Taylor; Walter N. and Blanche P.

CAPTAIN ALFRED M. PARKER is a lineal descendant of Captain John Parker, who commanded a detachment of colonial troops at the eventful battle of Lexington during the war of the revolution. Among the children of his son Eben, who resided in Boston, was John, also a resident of the same city, who married Rebecca Young of Boston. Their children are: Horace B., a member of the firm of Parker, Holmes & Co., of Boston; Alfred M., and two daughters, Isabella L., wife of George J. Tufts, and Ella J.

Alfred M. Parker was born October 26th, 1852, in Boston, where he resided until the age of twelve, meanwhile attending the public schools and laying the foundation for a substantial elementary education. The three succeeding years were spent in Medford, after which he removed to St. Louis, to familiarize himself with the boot and shoe trade. The firm with which he engaged managed two stores, and Captain Parker was connected in turn with both, finally transferring his relations to the more important, in which he was chief accountant. After a business connection of six years with this firm, he returned to Bos-



Alfred M. Barker

ton, and became travelling salesman for Messrs. Batchelder & Lincoln, a prominent wholesale boot and shoe house of that city. This engagement continued for a period of four years, when Putnam became his home. Here he purchased the business of Messrs. Houghton & Crandall, boot and shoe dealers, and has since that date been actively interested in this branch of trade. Under his judicious management the sales have largely increased, a wholesale and jobbing department having been added to the retail branch of the business.

Captain Parker has, since his settlement in Putnam, been identified with its improvement, and interested himself in the various projects having for their object the welfare of the community. He was a director and one of the original promoters of the Electric Light Company, and was chiefly instrumental in the erection of a drinking fountain in the center of the village. He is an active Mason, and senior warden of Quinebaug Lodge, F. & A. M. Of Putnam Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, he has been for two years the high priest. For four years Captain Parker has held the position of second lieutenant of Company G, Third regiment, Connecticut National Guards, located in Putnam, and received promotion to the office of aide-de-camp, with the rank of captain, on the staff of General Charles P. Graham, brigadier general, commanding the Connecticut National Guards. This promotion was the result of merit, so that he may be said in truth to have won his spurs, and with them the approbation and esteem of his commanding general.

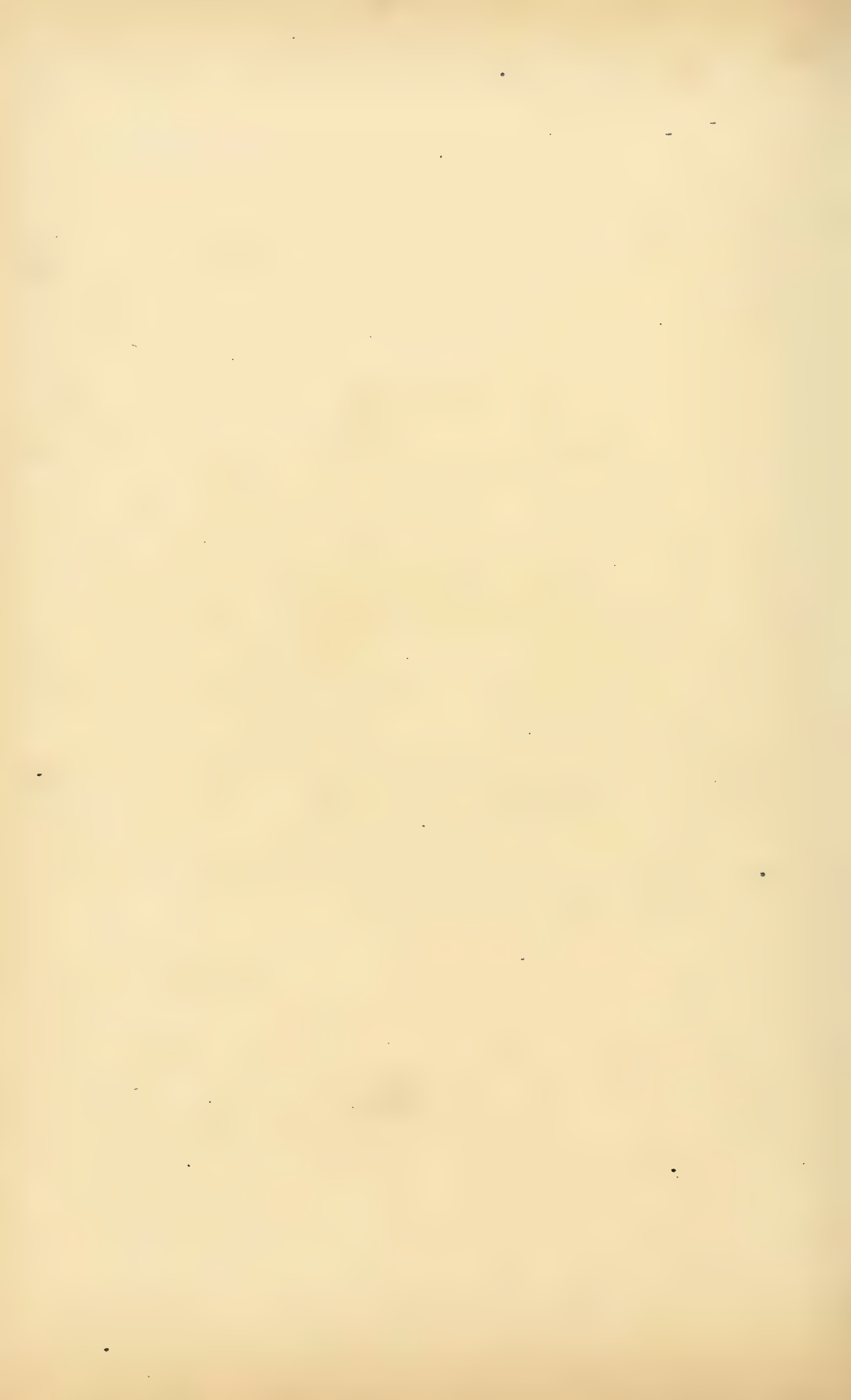
Captain Parker is accustomed to seek relaxation from the cares of an increasing business in a hunting and fishing trip on the coast of Florida during the winter months, his own convenient and attractive yacht contributing greatly to this pleasure. He was married to Miss Anne M. Howard, of Bath, Me., who died in March, 1885.

CHANDLER A. SPALDING.—Obed Spalding married Margaret Ames. Their son, Eleazer Spalding, married Sarah Parks and resided in Killingly, now Putnam, where he owned a farm, and also during the winter months engaged in teaching. He had two children, a son, Chandler A., and a daughter, Mary Ann, wife of George W. Keith. Chandler A. Spalding was born April 24th, 1810, on the farm in Killingly, and in the residence occupied by him during his lifetime. Having the misfortune to lose his father when but twelve years of age, he began active

labor at the age of fourteen, and such was his aptitude and judgment, that soon after, with his mother, he conducted the farm. He received a common English education at the district school, but was too much engrossed with the responsible duties thus early thrown upon him to afford much time for study.

On the 11th of February, 1835, he married Charity Gilbert, of Pomfret, whose children are : Caroline C., Albert, Emily, Loren and Charles, all now deceased. Mrs. Spalding's death occurred January 4th, 1861. Mr. Spalding having already owned one-third of the estate, on his marriage purchased the remaining two-thirds from his mother and sister, thus becoming sole owner of the homestead farm, on which he settled. He married a second time January 27th, 1862, Emily, daughter of Wareham Williams, of Pomfret, who survives him.

Mr. Spalding was in politics a republican, but not ambitious for office, and filled no other positions than those which enabled him to be of service to his native town. He was one of the incorporators and a director of the Putnam National Bank. He was the projector and at one time sole owner of the Putnam Cemetery, which was platted under his personal supervision. On its organization as a corporation, he became the president and filled that office until his death, which occurred on the 2d of April, 1877. Mr. Spalding was a Christian man, giving with a cheerful and willing heart, and zealous in promoting the prosperity of the Congregational church at Putnam, of which he was a member.



CHAPTER XXXII.

THE TOWN OF WOODSTOCK.

General Description and Geology.—Aborigines.—Visit of Eliot and Gookin.—The Narragansett War.—New Roxbury Colony.—Incorporation as Woodstock and Subsequent Events.—Indian Troubles.—Important Changes.—Final Division of Roxbury's Half of Woodstock.—Second Meeting House.—Ministerial Troubles.—Indian Alarms.—Land Divisions.—Worcester County Erected.—Early Schools.—Controversy with Colonel Chandler.—Settlement of West Woodstock.—Precinct Organized.—Building of Meeting House.—Organization of Church.—Woodstock's Revolt.—Contest between Massachusetts and Connecticut.—Church Division.—Various Town Affairs.

THE northwest corner of Windham county is occupied by the ample territory of Woodstock, eight miles by seven and a half in extent, comprising an area of nearly sixty square miles. It is the largest town in the county and retains, with least change, its original limits, its only loss occurring from a slight removal of its northern boundary. Woodstock ranks high among the farming towns of the state. Its soil is excellent, and the dearth of manufacturing privileges has helped to develop agricultural interests. A micaceous formation (gneiss), extending from Pomfret to its junction with a western branch of the same near Muddy brook, in the north of the town, furnishes a soil capable of great improvement. It is characterized by a series of smoothly rounded, detached hills, in which the rock is usually covered. Rocky ledges in other parts of the town have impeded cultivation, leaving extensive forest tracts, making the lumber interest of permanent value. A granitic formation in the south of the town is well adapted for quarrying, having furnished hearth stones and building material to succeeding generations since the first settlement of the town. The west of the town is favored with a large deposit of bog iron ore, especially in the neighborhood of Black pond, where it is said a single pit yielded a hundred and fifty tons of ore. Mineral springs, near the present residence of Deacon Abel Child, enjoyed a wide popularity for a season. Woodstock's variety of soil, nearness

to market, its wide-awake Farmer's Club, Grange and Agricultural Society, have stimulated culture and experiment and brought the general administration of farming affairs to a high standard. Attempts to utilize its small streams—Muddy brook, Bungee and Saw Mill brook—for manufacturing purposes have been less successful. Other manufacturing enterprises have met with varying success.

This Woodstock territory was first known to the whites as a part of Wabbaquasset, a country run over and conquered by the Mohegans, and subject to Uncas. Its name signifies "the mat-producing country," and was probably derived from some marsh or meadow that produced valuable reeds for mats and baskets. It included land west of the Quinebaug, north of a westward line from Acquiunk Falls, now at Danielsonville. The Indians living in this section were known as Wabbaquassets. They were apparently few in number and inferior in character, abjectly submissive to the great sachem Uncas, paying "him homage and obligations, and yearly tribute of white deer skins, bear skins and black wolf skins." The south part of what is now Woodstock is supposed to have been one of their favorite haunts. The smooth hills were burnt over every year to furnish fresh pasture for deer, and corn was grown there as far back as the first settlement of Boston. When news was borne through Nipnet to Wabbaquasset that Englishmen at the Bay lacked corn, and would pay a good price for it, a stout young Indian lad, Acquitimaug, trudged through the wilderness with his father with sacks of corn upon their backs to sell to the Englishmen.

Apart from this incident nothing is known of the aboriginal inhabitants of Woodstock, until the Indian converts of John Eliot found their way there. Two of these youths, trained at Natic in a school of virtue and piety, inspired by the teachings and example of the reverend apostle, sought to carry "good tidings" to their benighted countrymen at Wabbaquasset. They were sons of Petavit, sachem at Hamannasset (now Grafton), and are described as hopeful, pious and active young men. The younger, Sampson, "an active and ingenious person," had been before conversion dissolute in conduct, "lived very uncomfortably with his wife," but the transforming power of divine grace had been made more manifest thereby, and his mission work at Wabbaquasset was remarkably successful. Laboring alone among these untutored savages, within four years he had gath-

ered thirty families into an orderly community, had instructed them in the principles of religion, established divine worship and persuaded them to assume in some degree the habits of civilized life. They cultivated the land, raised great crops of corn and beans, and built wigwams, the like of which were not to be seen in New England. The precise locality of this Indian settlement has not been ascertained, but it was in the south part of the tract, near the present "Quasset," or in the vicinity of South Woodstock. A fort was maintained westward on what is now Fort hill, which was called the "second fort in the Nipmuck country."

The report of Major Daniel Gookin, "magistrate over the Praying Indians," of Mr. Eliot's tour among these Indians in 1674, enables us to see them as with our own eyes. With five or six godly persons and a number of Indian guides and followers, they visited the new "Praying Towns" planted by Eliot's missionaries. After spending the night at Chaubunkomuk (near Dudley), where Sampson's brother Joseph was teacher, they proceeded in the morning to Myanexet, "west of a fresh river called Mohegan" (now New Boston) where a village had been gathered. To these twenty families with others Mr. Eliot preached in the Indian tongue from the words, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates, . . . and the King of Glory shall come in," words which a swift messenger bore with all speed to the king of darkness at Mohegan. John Moqua, a pious and sober person, was presented to the people to be their minister, and a suitable psalm read by him was sung by the assembly. After a closing prayer the missionary band proceeded on their way, following the Connecticut Path, the main thoroughfare of travel between the colonies, for a part of the journey, diverging thence by Indian trail to the Wabbaquasset settlement. "Late in the evening," September 15th, they reached the sagamore's famous wigwam, sixty feet in length and twenty feet in width. The chief was absent, but his squaw received them courteously, and provided liberally in Indian fashion for their followers. The "active and ingenious" Sampson, rejoicing in the fruit of his labors, must have given them a hearty welcome, and "divers of the principal people that were at home" came to the wigwam, with whom they "spent a good part of the night in prayer, singing psalms and exhortations."

"It was a scene that has been many times repeated in mission-

ary experience, the grave and earnest men of God with the wild natives wondering and questioning at their feet, but one incident on this occasion was of unique occurrence. A grim Indian among them, "sitting mute a great space, at last spake to this effect—that he was agent for Uncas, sachem of Mohegan, who challenged right to and dominion over this people of Wabbaquasset. And said he, '*Uncas is not well pleased* that the English should pass over Mohegan River to call his Indians to pray to God.'" The timid Wabbaquassets might well have quailed at this lofty message from their sovereign lord, but Mr. Eliot replied calmly, "That it *was* his *work* to call upon all men everywhere, as he had opportunity, especially the Indians, to repent and embrace the Gospel, but he did not meddle with civil right or jurisdiction." Gookin, as magistrate, further explained and desired the messenger to inform Uncas, that Wabbaquasset was within the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, and that the government of that people did belong to them, yet it was not intended to abridge the Indian sachems of their just and ancient right over the Indians in respect of paying tribute or any other dues, but the main desire of the English was to bring them to the good knowledge of God in Christ Jesus, and to suppress among them their sins.

The morning following, September 16th, 1674, is one of the most notable in Woodstock history. The tidings of the progress of the missionary band had been borne far and wide, Indians from Myanexet, Quinnatisset and all the surrounding country, had come together to see and hear them, and at an early hour a public service was held. Tradition still points out the rock at the north extremity of Plaine hill that served as pulpit for John Eliot. Gookin and other godly persons stood beside him, and the throng of swarthy Indians pressed around their feet. Sampson began the service, "reading and setting the CXIX P's, first part, which was sung." Mr. Eliot offered prayer, and then preached to them in Indian out of Matthew, vi. 33, "First seek the kingdom of Heaven and the righteousness thereof, and all these things shall be added unto you."

Prayer closed the religious exercises, and then a civil service was enacted. Law *following* the Gospel presentation on this occasion, Gookin as magistrate, representing the authority of Massachusetts Bay, laid down the rules of civil government, confirming Sampson as public teacher, and Black James of Chau-

bunakongkomuck as constable, charging each to be diligent and faithful in his place, and exhorting the people to yield obedience to the Gospel of Christ and to those set in order there. He then published a warrant or order, empowering the constable to suppress drunkenness, Sabbath breaking, especially powwowing and idolatry, and to apprehend all delinquents and bring them before authority to answer for their misdeeds. Having thus established religious and civil ordinances, the visitors took leave of the people of Wabbaquasset and turned their footsteps homeward with thankfulness and joy at what had been accomplished.

The dreams and hopes of the good apostle, of Christianizing and civilizing the tribes that had long sat in darkness, seemed likely to be quickly realized. Churches and villages had been gathered and religious and civil institutions established. Ministers and constables had been formally established in office, and all was peace and order. A few short months and all was desolate. A ferocious war between whites and Indians obliterated the results of years of fruitful labor. The villages were destroyed, the churches vanished, the praying Indians relapsed into barbarous savages. Black James, Sampson, and other converts took sides with King Philip. The Wabbaquassets left their homes and planting fields and took up their abode at Mohegan. Captain Thomas of Providence, passing through Wapososhequash in pursuit of Philip, in August, 1675, reports "a very good inland country, well watered with rivers and brooks, special good land, great quantities of special good corn and beans, and stately wigwams as I never saw the like, but not one Indian to be seen." In the following summer Major Talcott, of Norwich, passed through Wabbaquasset, where he found a fort and some forty acres of growing corn, but no enemy. Demolishing fort and destroying the corn, they proceeded on their way. The Wabbaquassets during the war performed some slight services for Uncas, and were rewarded by the Connecticut government, and continued for some years afterward under his protection.

As soon as possible after the restoration of peace, Massachusetts arranged to take possession of the conquered territory. William Stoughton and Joseph Dudley were commissioned by the general court to treat with the Indian claimants and agree with them upon the easiest terms attainable. February 10th, 1682, negotiations were completed by which the whole Nipmuck

country, from the northern part of Massachusetts to a point called Nash-a-way, at the junction of the Quinebaug and French rivers, Connecticut—a tract fifty by forty miles in extent—was made over to the government of the Bay colony, for the sum of fifty pounds, a reservation of five miles square being also allowed the Indians. Colonization was the immediate result of this cession. Plantation in New England was quickly followed by emigration. The mother towns were not able to furnish homes for new comers, and the many children of the first planters. The flourishing town of Roxbury was especially hampered in this respect, “its limits being so scanty and not capable of enlargement” that many families were forced to find other settlements. Eagerly its inhabitants welcomed the opening of the Nipmuck country as furnishing a wider field for their superabundant population.

In October, 1683, its selectmen petitioned the general court for a tract of land seven miles square, “for the enlargement of the town and the encouragement of its inhabitants,” the land to be laid out at Quinntisset or thereabouts, if a convenient way may be found there. This prayer was granted on condition that previous grantees had the first choice, and “that thirty families be settled on said plantation within three years, and maintain among them an able, orthodox, godly minister.” The town accepted the conditions, and in the following year sent out Lieutenant Samuel Ruggles, John Ruggles, John Curtis and Edward Morris, “To view the premises and find a convenient place to take up her grant.” With Indian guides they made their way through the wilderness and carefully viewed the premises. Quinntisset (now Thompson), for which they had asked, was already appropriated, and farms laid out to English owners, but land adjacent at Senexet and Wabbaquasset they thought commodious for a settlement.

The town accepted their information, October 27th, 1684, and chose a suitable committee, “to draw up, upon consideration, propositions that may be most equable and prudent for the settlement of the place.” Inhabitants unwilling to assume the responsibility of carrying forward the work had liberty to withdraw without offense, and be free from further charges. All others were to be held responsible for the settlement and expenses of the Nipmuck colony. The following year farther arrangements were made, the town agreeing to give to the actual

settlers one-half the entire grant, and a hundred pounds in money, to be laid out in public works, but it was not till the third year that they proceeded to take possession. A number of pioneers having volunteered to go in advance and prepare the way for the main body, it was voted in town meeting, March 4th, 1686, "That such should have liberty to break up land and plant anywhere they please without being bound to accept it as their share of the grant." This advance guard, thirteen in number, viz., Benjamin Sabin, Jonathan Smithers, Henry Bowen, John Frizzell, Matthew Davis, Nathaniel Gary, Thomas Bacon, John Marcy, Peter Aspinwall, Benjamin and George Griggs, Joseph Lord and Ebenezer Morris left Roxbury about April 1st, and having surmounted the perils of the journey, made record that on April 5th, 1686, "Several persons came as planters and settlers and took actual possession (by breaking up land and planting corn) of the land granted to Roxbury (called by the planters New Roxbury; by the Antient natives Wapaquasset.)"

Through Senexet valley in the east of the tract they passed on southward, making headquarters at Plaine hill. In the vale eastward they planted corn fields and set up a saw mill on a small brook running toward the lake. The larger stream feeding the lake was given the name of their own Muddy brook in Roxbury. No curious natives disturbed their solitude. The Wabbaquassets were still sojourning in Mohegan. In May they were visited by a deputation from Roxbury, which came with Surveyor Gore to take a more formal survey of the tract, settle the south bound, and determine the length and breadth of the grant, so that the first "Go-ers" might make an intelligent choice. Eleven days were spent in exploring and surveying. Massachusetts' south bound, an unknown, disputed, almost imaginary line, making much trouble between Massachusetts and Connecticut, could not be identified, but a substitute was devised by affixing a station about one and a half miles south of Plaine hill, and thence marking trees in line, east and west. The south bound thus obtained was nearly two miles south of the "Woodward and Saffery Line," claimed by Massachusetts and about eight miles south of the south bound finally established. Other arrangements were made and the committee returned in time to report proceedings, June 12th, at Roxbury.

A vigorous new colony "boom" had now set in and much interest was manifested. The prescribed quota of thirty planters

was already full and others were pressing in. Men were known in town "under the denomination" of "Go-ers," or "Stay-ers;" men from adjacent towns were craving admittance and permission was granted to admit such with the "Goers," "if the selectmen of Roxbury and other Go-ers do approve them." July 21st, an especial meeting was held for the more orderly settling the aforesaid village or grant, when the following agreement was adopted:

"I. That every man should take up what number of acres he pleaseth in his home lot, not exceeding thirty; and after-rights and divisions of land shall arise according to the proportion of his home lot, and all after-charges to arise proportionably upon the home lots for the first six years.

"II. That whoever shall neglect the payment of his rate two months after a rate is made and demanded, shall forfeit for every five shillings two acres of his home lot with all proportionable rights, and so, more or less, according to his failure; always provided that they take not his house nor orchard. . . .

"III. If any meadows should fall out to be in any one's home lot it shall be accounted as so much of his proportion of meadow, and his home lot made up with upland.

"IV. That all persons that have planted in the year 1686 shall have two acres of his home lot free for the first three years, and shall enjoy the land they planted in 1687 and '88, though it fall out in any other person's home lot.

"V. That within one month they will go personally to their new plantation, and there make farther agreements, divisions and settlements."

The fifth article of the agreement was faithfully carried out. Within the specified month they set out upon their distant pilgrimage—the forty men who had enrolled themselves "Go-ers," and a fair proportion of their families. Of all circumstances connected with the fitting out, departure and journey of the colony we are wholly ignorant. On foot and horseback, with cart and cattle, they traversed the well-worn Connecticut path, or the newer way laid out by Major Pynchon through the Oxford grant, to meet a joyful welcome from the waiting pioneers. In their five months' residence the thirteen planters had made a good beginning. Three distinct sites, suitable for villages, had been selected and on the northern extremity of Plaine hill a house or hall, intended for general use, had been put up. The first pub-

lic meeting was held August 25th, "at New Roxbury, alias Wap-aquasset," at the Wabbaquasset Hall, when the planters voted to take the south half of the tract for their portion, and "that the place where the home lots shall begin shall be upon the Plaine Hill."

Finding some difficulty in arranging plans of settlement, on the following day the planters agreed to select seven men to state needful highways, and a lot for the minister, and consider of land convenient for the planters to settle on, and for a convenient place for a meeting house to stand on. Each planter also specified the number of acres he desired in his home lot, according as he was able and willing to carry on public charges, and liberty was given for any one to select any particular piece of land he might desire, otherwise it would be settled "as the lots shall fall by a lot." The seven wise men selected for this service were the oldest, and, inferentially, the wisest in the company, viz.: Joseph Griggs, Edward Morris, Henry Bowen, Sr., John Chandler, Sr., Samuel Craft, Samuel Scarborough and Jonathan Smithers. Assisted by the thirteen pioneers, and the surveys they had already accomplished, the work assigned was soon despatched, and on Saturday, August 26th, 1686 (old style), the company of emigrants met on Plaine hill, "in order to draw lots where their home lots should be."

The seven wise men chosen for laying out and pitching the town, had decided upon the three locations previously referred to—"the Plaine hill," the "Westward hill" adjacent, and the Eastward vale, now South Woodstock, and laid out or assigned suitable home lots in each. They had also marked out and ordered convenient highways, viz.: 1. A highway, eight rods wide, running along the Plaine (hill), extending to a brook at the north end of the eastward vale, running by marked trees; thence southward along the vale to another brook, six rods wide, with a cross highway four rods wide about the middle, where it may be most convenient when the lots are laid out. 2. From the north end of Plaine hill, a highway eight rods wide, to the east side of the westward hill; thence northward four rods wide and so on circuiting the hill; which were considered sufficient for present use. They had also agreed that the meeting house should stand upon the Plaine hill, and that the lots should begin upon the north end of Plaine hill, adjacent to Wabbaquasset Hall.

The business of the day was carried forward with much formality and dignity. It was no common band of emigrants that were laying the foundations of Woodstock, but leading men from one of the most prominent and prosperous towns in Massachusetts, whose people were the best that came over from England. In troublous times, a narrow-minded Catholic bigot upon the throne of Great Britain, the charter of Massachusetts taken away, a royal governor imminent, they hoped to find in this distant settlement a place of refuge from despotic extortion. Thus, with religious ceremonies, as well as legal formality, they made their distribution. The place of meeting was doubtless Wabbaquasset Hall. The seven seniors, who had served as committee, occupied the place of honor. The settlers had ranged themselves in three bodies, according to their choice in matter of location, and each company in turn presented itself before the honorable committee. "Liberty was given to those that desired to sit down on the Plaine hill, to draw by themselves. Others desiring to sit down in the eastward vale had liberty to draw for that by themselves," and those wishing to sit down on the westward hill had the same liberty allowed them. Four of the elder settlers, who had made choice of particular lots, then stepped forward and manifested their choice, viz., John Chandler, Sr., Samuel Scarborough, Samuel Craft, William Lyon, Sr. "Solemn prayer to God, who is the disposer of all things," was then offered for his guidance and blessing, followed by the drawing of lots by the three companies in succession, "every man being satisfied and contented with God's disposal." Thirty-eight persons received allotments on this occasion, viz.:

1. Thomas and Joseph Bacon, thirty acres.
2. James Corbin, twenty acres.
3. Minister's lot, twenty acres.
4. Benjamin Sabin, twenty acres.
5. Henry Bowen, fifteen acres.
6. Thomas Lyon, sixteen acres.
7. Ebenezer Morris, eighteen acres.
8. Matthew Davis, sixteen acres.
9. William Lyon, Sr., and Ebenezer Cass.

These lots were all laid out on Plaine hill. It had been previously voted "by the company of Go-ers," that whosoever took up their land upon the Plaine, on the northward side of Mill brook, should have one-third part of land added to their home

lots, viz., three acres for two on account of the inferior quality of the land. Seventeen lots were then assigned in the eastward vale, viz.:

10. John Chandler, Sr., thirty acres.
11. Peter Aspinwall, twenty acres.
12. John Frizzell, twenty acres.
13. Joseph Frizzell, twenty acres.
14. Jonathan Smithers, thirty acres.
15. John Butcher, sixteen acres.
16. Jonathan Davis, eighteen acres.
17. Jonathan Peake, twenty acres.
18. Nathaniel Gary, fifteen acres.
19. John Bowen, fifteen acres.
20. Nathaniel Johnson, sixteen acres.
21. John Hubbard, ten acres.
22. George Griggs, fifteen acres.
23. Benjamin Griggs, fifteen acres.
24. William Lyon, Jr., fifteen acres.
25. John Leavens, twenty acres.
26. Nathaniel Sanger, twenty acres.

Lots 27, Samuel Scarborough, and 28, Samuel Craft, were laid out on the east side of Plaine hill.

The home lots on the westward hill were made over to eight persons, viz.:

29. Samuel May, fifteen acres.
30. Joseph Bugbee, fifteen acres.
31. Samuel Peacock, ten acres.
32. Arthur Humphrey, twelve acres.
33. John Bugbee, fifteen acres.
34. John Ruggles, twenty acres.
35. Andrew Watkins, twenty acres.
36. John Marcy, fifteen acres.

Lot 37, Edward Morris, thirty acres, was laid out east side of Plaine hill, "bounded west by the great highway; south partly by land reserved for public use and partly by land of Samuel Craft and Samuel Scarborough; east by common land; north upon the highway that goeth from the street to the Great Pond."

It was agreed by vote that the number of shares should be limited to fifty. The remaining allotments were distributed within six years to the following settlers:

38. Joseph Peake, twenty acres.
39. John Holmes, twenty acres.
40. John Chandler, Jr., twenty acres.
41. William Bartholomew, fifteen acres.
42. Isaac Bartholomew, ten acres.
43. Clement Corbin, twenty acres.
44. Samuel Rice, fifteen acres.
45. William Bartholomew, Jr., ten acres.
46. Joseph Bugbee, Jr., ten acres.
47. Nathaniel Johnson, Jr., ten acres.
48. Jabez Corbin, fifteen acres.
49. William Bartholomew, Sr., twenty acres.
51. Benjamin Sabin, Jr.
52. Philip Eastman, twenty acres.
50. Reserved for ministry.*

These fifty proprietors were all previous residents of Roxbury, with the exception of Peter Aspinwall, of Dorchester; John Holmes, Dorchester; the three Corbins from Muddy river (Brooklyn); the Bartholomews, from Branford; John Butcher, Boston; Philip Eastman, Haverhill. Many were united by family ties, as fathers, sons and brothers. Of the older men, Henry Bowen, Samuel Craft, William Lyon, Sr., Samuel May, Samuel Scarborough, returned to their Roxbury homes, leaving their New Roxbury land with sons or purchasers. Jonathan Smithers, John Bowen, William Lyon, Jr., John Ruggles, failed to retain possession. About forty of the original proprietors remained in possession of their home lots thus assigned to them—the fathers and founders of the town of Woodstock. All subsequent divisions of land in the south half of the grant were based upon the number of acres in each man's home lot, and public charges were laid in the same proportion. Part of the "Go-ers" had brought their wives and children, and hastened to put up houses and establish household life. November 3d, 1686, a proprietors' meeting was held at the house of Thomas Lyon. John Chandler, Sr., Joseph Bugbee and Edward Morris were chosen a committee for the oversight and ordering of public affairs. A committee was also chosen "to treat with young Mr. John Wilson

* A Chart showing the laying out of the original home lots and highways, and a large Map giving ancient and modern homesteads, highways, and all noteworthy localities, have been carefully prepared for the forthcoming History of Woodstock, but are not within the scope of the present work.

of Medfield to come and preach to the planters in order to settlement." Religious services were held in the open air this first autumn, a large rock by the roadside on the way to the westward hill serving for a pulpit; but settlement was not sufficiently advanced for a stated minister.

As the older men returned to Roxbury, and winter closed in around them, the little colony realized more fully its isolation and exposure. The nearest settlements on the north were Oxford and Worcester, and many miles of savage wilderness lay between them and the far-off towns, Providence, Norwich and Hartford. The future populous counties, Worcester and Windham, were as yet unsurveyed and almost unbroken, inhabited by wild beasts and more ferocious savages. Alone in this vast tract of wintry desolation, they took counsel together around the scattered hearthstones and laid plans for coming years. Scouts were kept up patrolling the settlements, to guard from Indian alarm, and houses fortified to serve as places of refuge.

As early as possible spring work was begun. April 29th, 1687, Edward Morris, Nathaniel Johnson and Joseph White were commissioned by the planters to treat and agree for the building of a corn mill, on as reasonable terms as they could. William Bartholomew, of Branford, a former resident of Roxbury, was the person selected and secured, with urgent persuasion, "For building a corn mill on the falls below Muddy Brook pond (now Harrisville) and finding the town with grinding good meal, clear of grit." He received a place at the falls to set a mill, a fifteen acre home lot with rights, a hundred acres of upland, and afterward an additional twenty acre home lot, "provided he bring his wife and settle upon it." July 2d, John Chandler, Sr., Nathaniel Johnson, Joseph Bugbee, James White and Joseph Peake were chosen to order the prudential affairs of the place as selectmen for the year ensuing. John Holmes assumed the charge of running the saw mill, receiving the land on which the mill stood, three or four acres, bounded east and north by Saw Mill brook, laid out for the town's use, provided he leave convenient way to carry timber to mill.

March 12th, 1688, the planters appointed seven men, viz., Edward Morris, John Chandler, Sr., Benjamin Sabin, Joseph Bugbee, William Bartholomew, Samuel Rice, John Bugbee, to state and settle highways and make return in writing. These seven men were empowered to end the controversy between

Samuel Rice and John Marcy about their home lots; also to allow Joseph Bacon to take up the remainder of his brother Thomas's lot, provided he come and settle here by the 12th of April next, and to rectify various under and over allotments. Attending to this work "with all expedition," on March 18th the committee reported seventeen highways necessary for the good of the town. A number of these were two rods wide, accommodating the settlers with ways to the mills or Planting hill in the tract. The most important was a road eight rods wide "running from the brook at the northward end of the eastward vale to go and be by the pond through the plaine to Muddy brook, from thence up to the Plaine Hill," and also one going out from this highway "to lead to the road called Connecticut Road," extending through the intervale west side Muddy brook. Little else was accomplished during the year; a bridge was built near John Chandler's; orchards were set out with famous russets and other slips brought from Roxbury, but there was small encouragement to effort.

"His Excellency, Sir Edmond Andros, gov.-general of his majesty's territories and dominions of New England," had not yet granted a patent of confirmation. Again and again the matter was earnestly discussed by the fathers of the settlement, a majority pledging themselves to pay all charges necessary for securing it, according to their proportion. Most humble petitions, both from old Roxbury and the new plantation, were laid before this despotic ruler, praying that their land might be confirmed to them "on such moderate quit rent as may be agreeable to your Excellency's wisdom, and the great distance and poverty of place and inhabitants will allow." No notice was taken of these requests. Loftier prey was sought by the rapacious governor. Their very poverty and distance gave them security. Roxbury suffered with other prosperous towns from his exactions, and was unable to advance the money promised to her "Go-ers." Meeting house, schools, all public improvements were thus left in abeyance, and the New Roxbury settlers could only bide their time and improve their own home lots. A few new residents came during this interval. Sons of the first comers became of age and received allotments. The first death was that of Joseph Peake, Sr., whose place on the committee was filled by Samuel Scarborough, March 1st, 1688. The first birth reported was that of Nathaniel Gary, November 6th, 1686. Sam-

uel Rice, Stephen Sabin, John Marcy, John Hubbard, Hannah Gary and Rebekah Bacon were also reported before 1690. John Holmes and Hannah Newell were married April 9th, 1690.

The breaking out of King William's war in 1689 aroused fresh apprehension of Indian assault. "In the sense of our great hazard and danger, and our incapacity to defend ourselves," the inhabitants of New Roxbury met together and organized as a military company, making choice of Edward Morris for lieutenant and William Bartholomew, Jr., ensign. A paper attesting this choice "as the act and desire of the soldiers," was laid before the government by John Chandler, Joseph Bugbee and Benjamin Sabin. This nomination was allowed and confirmed by the representatives, and consented to by the governor, July 13th, 1689.

The revolution of 1688, deposing King James II. and his governors, and establishing King William upon the throne of Britain, brought new life and hope to the New Roxbury colony. Both town and colony hastened before the court with a petition for confirmation, name and further privileges. Its failure to procure the settlement of an orthodox minister was generously overlooked in consideration of the "great over-turns" that had been, and in March, 1690, "the petition was granted by the deputies and honorable magistrates consenting." March 15th, it was further voted, "That the name of the plantation granted to Roxbury be Woodstock," a name selected by Captain Samuel Sewall, afterward chief justice, with veritable prophetic instinct, "because of its nearness to Oxford, for the sake of Queen Elizabeth, and the notable meetings that have been held at the place bearing the name in England." With joy and gratitude the inhabitants received the tidings, and formerly inscribed upon their records—"Woodstock, March 31, 1690.—We the selectmen of Woodstock, formerly called New Roxbury, being met together, have made a rate for levying the whole charge of said place on each inhabitant according to a vote of the town, the sum of which amounts unto £124, 10s. in pay; the other part amounts unto £31, 7s. 4½d., in money, which whole rate is delivered to Constable John Holmes, to gather forthwith for the town's use as the selectmen shall order."

The important question of providing for divine worship was now brought under consideration. Mr. Josiah Dwight, of Dedham, a youth of twenty, who had already graduated from Har-

vard College and pursued ministerial studies, was even then preaching to the people. The selectmen were empowered to treat with him about settling in the work of the ministry, and soon made satisfactory agreement, offering the twenty acre home lot with town rights and divisions, and to build and finish a house for him, with a salary of thirty pounds, increasing ten pounds annually till it became sixty pounds. October 27th, William Bartholomew, Sr., Nathaniel Johnson and Benjamin Sabin were appointed a committee "to manage the building a minister's house 40 x 19, 14 feet stud, a cellar seventeen feet square, a stack of four chimneys and two gables." A committee was also chosen to assist the selectmen in writing to Roxbury to demand the money "due to us by their agreement." At this same meeting John Chandler, Sr., was chosen first selectman in place of that most worthy and prominent citizen, Lieutenant Edward Morris, deceased.

The annual town meeting was held November 27th. John Chandler, Jr., was chosen town clerk; John Chandler, Sr., William Bartholomew, Benjamin Sabin, John Leavens and Joseph Bugbee, selectmen, in whose hands was placed "the whole power of the town, excepting granting lands and admitting inhabitants;" Jonathan Peake, Matthew Davis, Samuel Rice, surveyors. It was voted that the meadows be divided in two divisions, good and bad, each by itself, John Butcher, surveyor. Also, that the town be at the charge of digging clay, tempering of it, making a yard, cutting wood and carting it for bricks for the minister's chimneys. As cattle had free range and often lost themselves, a substantial pound was ordered, "to stand nigh to Matthew Davis's fence in the front of his lot near the highway." The houses of Benjamin Sabin and Nathaniel Johnson in the south and east extremities of the settlements, were designated as watch houses, to be securely fortified, and a later vote required that every man should get a ladder for his house, Jonathan Peake having the oversight thereof, and forfeiting five shillings for every man found lacking. Every man was also ordered to bring in the ear-mark of his creatures to be recorded by the town clerk. As no arrangements for schools were yet practicable, "it was requested and procured that John Chandler, Jr., teach and instruct children and youth how to write and cypher." In regard to the various "quarrels" that were pending the town did oblige itself "to stand to the determination of the General Court's Committee."

In 1691 bridges received much attention. Peter Aspinwall mended the bridge by John Chandler's; Samuel Rice was ordered "to mend the ways about West hill, and especially care for the bridges beyond Wabbaquasset hill on Connecticut road." Jonathan Peake and Matthew Davis were enjoined to mend the ways about town, and make two bridges between Lieutenant Bartholomew's and Benjamin Sabin's, in the most suitable places, and to repair the bridge by Joseph Frizzell's. The town also agreed to be at the charge of a road to Providence, by making a way unto the cedar swamp, on the other side of Quinebaug river; "Benjamin Sabin to oversee the work and take account of, the same;" Peter Aspinwall, substitute. Work on the minister's house went leisurely forward, and measures were initiated for building a meeting house. John Leavens, Edward Morris, Jonathan Peake, John Chandler, Sr., were appointed building committee, with power to let out the whole of the work, and make a rate proportionately on each inhabitant, and oblige themselves to pay the same and in such specie as they shall promise to the workmen. John Holmes was apparently the man selected, and a time limited for the completion of the house. A man was to be allowed two shillings a day for working, or two and three-pence, he finding himself diet; five shillings if with a team of four cattle. During the following year work dragged slowly. Roxbury deferred the payment of the promised money, and Indians gave serious annoyance. Ancient Wabbaquassets had returned to their old home drunken and refractory, averse to Massachusetts' dominion. Their chief, Tokekamowootchaug, was as barbarous as his name, and better disposed Indians were brought to death's door by his unruly followers. A petition from Woodstock's selectmen, February, 1692, reported many outrages, but it was found very difficult to restrain or punish the offenders.

Relations with Roxbury continued inharmonious. In the course of 1693 the minister's house was sufficiently completed to serve for public meetings. The selectmen and town clerk were directed to consider of and compile such by-laws and orders as might be for the benefit of the town. A clerk of the market was added to town officers. During this year Woodstock attained "the conveniency of a shop," twelve square rods adjoining Clement Corbin's lot being granted to his son, Jabez, for that purpose. The spot assigned was near the site of the present post office on Woodstock hill. The three Corbins were settled at the

north end of Plaine hill, and this shop became a noted institution. The brothers, James and Jabez, were energetic traders, taking in furs, turpentine and any marketable product to exchange for goods in Boston. Their heavily laden cart toiled back and forth over the rough highway. James Corbin also traded or speculated extensively in land, and was a very prominent personage. John Chandler, Jr., was becoming very widely known as a land surveyor, much employed by Connecticut land operators. Marrying Mary Raymond, of New London, he spent much time in that town, surveying land for Major James Fitch, agent for the Mohegans, and practically master of all their territory. Captain Chandler was also town and proprietor's clerk at home, and detailed on other public service.

After much disagreement and discussion upon relations with Roxbury, it was voted, September 6th, "That the town do forthwith make choice of one man, who shall join with Captain Chapin, of Mendon, to go to Roxbury and agree and determine all matters supposed to be in difference, particularly the hundred pounds and the remaining part of land, and what they agree to shall be stood to by the town"—passed by a very clear vote, with some dissenters. John Butcher was the man chosen, and all difficulties were happily surmounted. November 3d the town was made acquainted with proceedings of Roxbury, agreement of committee and Captain Chapin's account of service done, and "generally manifested their desire of thanks to be given for his service." Part of the money received was appropriated toward finishing the minister's house, and ten pounds allowed for nails and irons for the meeting house; the remainder delivered to Mr. Dwight, to be kept till the town should call for it. In March, 1694, the committee empowered to build a house for the minister was commanded to deliver the same and also the lot, with all its appurtenances, to Mr. Dwight, our minister. In November of the same year the meeting house was ready for occupation, and the old hall, or White House, appraised by indifferent men and sold for town charges.

In the following year the church was organized, by a council of Massachusetts churches, and Reverend Josiah Dwight ordained and installed as its pastor. Unfortunately, all record of its formation is lacking, but undoubtedly its members were mostly dismissed from the mother church of Roxbury, with which they had maintained connection. John Chandler, Sr., and Benjamin

Sabin were elected deacons. During this year a second land division was effected—forty acres to each twenty-acre home lot, and to all proprietors in that proportion—extending from the east line, east side the pond, to four miles westward. William Bartholomew, Benjamin Sabin, Benjamin Griggs, with the surveyor, John Butcher, were commissioned to perform the work under specific directions. Fifty-one lots were laid out and distributed. Samuel Perrin, John Carpenter, Edmond Chamberlain, David Knight and other new settlers appeared, taking the place of first proprietors. Several pieces of land were reserved for public uses, viz., the site of the meeting house, a square piece of land in front of James Corbin's, containing four or five acres, for training place and burial ground (part of the present Woodstock common), another strip between Jabez Corbin's and the highway, and several pieces for the maintenance of schools. Land reserved for the support of the ministers was ordered to be fenced and planted with orchards. At the same time a division of the north half was in progress under Roxbury's direction, John Butcher, surveyor. William Bartholomew and Benjamin Sabin joined with Roxbury's committee "in stating and settling the dividend line between the inhabitants of Woodstock and Roxbury." A highway four rods wide was laid out upon this line. Roxbury's land was laid out in nine parallel ranges, running north from this highway with highways between. About a third of the north half was laid out and the lots made over to 142 proprietors. The remainder of the stipulated hundred pounds was then paid over to Woodstock, and all accounts harmoniously settled. This payment enabled Woodstock to settle her own accounts; pay Mr. Dwight his dues "from the beginning of the world to May 6, 1696;" square up all arrearages for meeting house and town charges, and indulge in a special wolf-rate "to pay to those who kill the wolves."

Stringent laws had then been passed for the maintenance of proper authority. Those neglecting to work upon the highway after suitable warning should forfeit three shillings. A fine of one and sixpence was ordered for neglecting town meetings; sixpence for not appearing at the hour appointed, and an additional sixpence for every following hour. March 2d, farther rules were enacted; Jonathan Peake was chosen constable; Nathaniel Johnson, to collect town rates and minister's salary, receiv-

ing ten shillings, cash, "and such rates as he does not gather he is to pay the same out of his own estate." Selectmen were instructed: 1. To secure the town from all damages and penalties of the law sustained through their neglect. 2. In raising town charges, all male heads to be rated threepence per head from sixteen years old and upward; home lots, meadows, at a penny an acre; divisional addition, halfpenny an acre; horses, cattle and swine as they are valued in law. 3. That every person do bring an exact note of their estates August 1st; Samuel Perrin, Ebenezer Morris, surveyors; Nathaniel Aspinwall, David Knight, fence viewers. The same day Deacons Chandler and Sabin, Lieutenant Bartholomew, Nathaniel Johnson and John Leavens were appointed a committee to seat the meeting house, observing as rules, "what persons have paid and do pay, and to respect age." John Carpenter and Peter Aspinwall were afterward added to the committee for managing the affair of finishing the meeting house, viz., John Chandler, Sr., and Edward Morris; and Samuel Taylor allowed twelve shillings a year for sweeping.

Thus in ten years the Roxbury colony was comfortably established, but clouds were gathering. The long-continued war between France and England incited their Indian allies to shocking atrocities. New England was exposed to constant alarm and assault from the fierce Mohawks and restless Canadian Indians. An isolated, frontier town like Woodstock was especially exposed, and the insubordination of its own Indian residents added to their uneasiness. These Wabbaquassets were inimical to Massachusetts and her authority, but most fortunately at this epoch they were willing to yield allegiance to Lieutenant John Sabin, half brother of Deacon Sabin, who had established himself just over Woodstock line, within Connecticut limits. Under his leadership Woodstock's military position was greatly strengthened. Watch houses were fortified, scouts maintained, military discipline enforced, the Indians looked after and brought within Sabin's fortifications.

Woodstock's first serious alarm occurred in the August of 1696, just ten years from the date of settlement. A band of marauders fell suddenly upon the helpless Huguenots of Frenchtown (now Oxford). John Evans and John Johnson were shot, the children of Johnson dashed against the chimney jamb, their mother managing to escape to the river by the aid of her brother. Stealing down the stream and through the woods, she reached

Woodstock in the morning with her tale of horrors. Quickly the news flew through the Woodstock settlements. The inhabitants huddled within the garrisons, tidings were sent to the authorities of Massachusetts and Connecticut, and bands of armed men scoured the woods and guarded exposed positions. The arrival of Major Fitch with a few English soldiers and a band of friendly Indians relieved immediate apprehension, especially as he was able to exercise authority over the Wabbaquassets. He found they numbered twenty-nine fighting men, and as their headquarters were with Lieutenant John Sabin, he was able to furnish them with arms and ammunition under certain restrictions.

This beginning of tribulation was followed by a long period of insecurity and alarm. In October, 1696, by act of assembly, Woodstock was accounted a frontier and comprehended within the act to prevent the deserting the frontier, by which its inhabitants were forbidden to leave the town without special license, under very severe penalties. John Sabin was now made captain and Peter Aspinwall lieutenant of the company, the latter serving many months in command of a company of scouts or rangers, patrolling the woods of Massachusetts.

A very serious panic occurred early in 1700, arising from the very suspicious conduct of the Wabbaquassets, who went away mysteriously with their families and the treasure of the tribe, pretending fear and danger from the Mohegans. Other indications pointed to a general combination and insurrection of what were deemed friendly Indians in New England, and there was great apprehension that these Wabbaquassets had started for the rendezvous. A hasty message brought to the relief of Woodstock Captain Samuel Mason, with twelve English soldiers and eighteen Mohegans. He found Woodstock in great excitement. James Corbin's well-known cart was on the way from Boston, laden with ammunition, and great fear was entertained lest this military store might be captured by the enemy. After holding counsel with Mr. Dwight, Captain Sabin and leading men of the town, it was thought best to dispatch three faithful Wabbaquassets, viz., Kinsodock, Mookheag and Pesicus, as messengers to the fugitives, urging them to return and assuring them of their friendship and protection. A pass was sent with them forbidding people to take their arms from them. News came during the day that Corbin's cart was drawing nigh, and sixty armed

men went out to meet it and brought it in with great rejoicings. The friendly messengers were probably successful, as nothing farther was heard of the "resurrection and revolt of his Majesty's subjects," and Captain Mason returned peacefully to New London.

The state of alarm continued several years. Major Fitch visiting Woodstock in 1704, reported affairs there in bad condition, the people poorly provided and much exposed, the women and children gathered into garrison with but one man to guard them. Other inhabitants were out scouting or laboring in the fields under arms. The families on the westward hill he found in very difficult and disheartening circumstances, too remote to come into town, and having no adequate fortifications. He thought needful to leave fifteen men for the defense of the place, to serve alternately as scout and guard, and desired the government of Massachusetts "to provide the standing part at the several garrisons as to diet, and the marching part with supper and breakfast when they came in." The sums levied upon Woodstock for her subsistence and maintenance of this defense told heavily upon her slender treasury.

Public affairs were much neglected during these anxious years. Town meetings were almost wholly intermitted, common land left unfenced, highways to run to waste, mill house out of repair. A few families removed from town. A number of the older settlers were removed by death, viz., John Leavens, John Butcher, Deacon John Chandler, William Bartholomew, Sr., Nathaniel Johnson, Sr., and others. By 1704 tranquility was so far restored that the first school house was ordered, "21x16, six or seven feet high, on the hill southwest of John Carpenter's. . . . to be finished by Michaelmas next," Jonathan Peake, Jacob Parker, Arthur Humphrey committee to manage the work (site on town land near the present Plaine Hill cottage). John Holmes, John Johnson, Philip Eastman, Samuel Perrin, Smith Johnson now served as selectmen; Matthew Davis, constable; John Chandler, town clerk; Thomas Lyon, Thomas Eaton, surveyors. Philip Eastman was sent as deputy to the general court. John Picker taught the first school in the new school house, and was succeeded by Thomas Lyon. Samuel Paine, Zachariah Richardson, James Hosmer, John and Peter Morse, John Payson, John Child and other new settlers had come into possession of home lots, made vacant by removal to growing settlements

in Aspinock and Mashamoquet. Deacon Benjamin Sabin and his large family of sons, Nathaniel Gary, John Carpenter, Nathaniel Sanger, John Hubbard, Peter Aspinwall, the sons of John Leavens, Samuel Paine and Samuel Perrin were among these emigrants.

The opening of these adjacent settlements added to the importance of Woodstock, the mother town, with established institutions. These "borderers" attended service at her meeting house, improved her grist mill, traded at the Corbins' shop, and participated in the festivities of training and election days. The mill privilege had now fallen into the hands of James Hosmer, whose family retained it for many years. John Holmes added a fulling mill to his accommodations, and was also chosen and desired to make coffins "as there may be occasion." William Lyon, grandson of William Lyon, Sr., accepted the office of grave digger. Public matters now received attention. Attempts were made "to bridge the great rivers between us and Mendon." Selectmen of Woodstock initiated a movement for a new road to Providence, with a bridge over the Quinebaug. The road was laid out as at present, crossing the river below the High Falls (now in Putnam), but no bridge was achieved for a number of years.

In 1710 two new school houses were constructed, one near John Child's corner, the other near Joseph Bacon's, north end of Plaine hill; Samuel Perrin, Smith Johnson, William Lyon, John Morse, building committee. Thomas Lyon taught for two months in the north school house; Stephen Sabin at the south; the town stipulating "that they require not above nine shillings a week."

In 1710 a new division of land was surveyed and laid out by Captain John Chandler; eighty acres for a twenty acre right, and other rights in proportion were allowed to each holder of original lots, each proprietor drawing in turn his allotment. It was voted, "That the lands still undivided on the east end of the town shall abide as common land forever or till the town dispose of them." Another division was also made in Roxbury's half, "all conformable" to the previous laying out of John Butcher in parallel ranges, with highways between. This division was not completed and distributed till September, 1715, at which date Roxbury's right in Woodstock passed into the hands of individual owners. During this year the western part

of the south half was laid out in four ranges, running from north to south, and distributed among the proprietors. Massachusetts' southern boundary, which had caused so much contention and trouble, was now rectified, but by the terms of the agreement she was allowed to retain jurisdiction over the towns she had settled. Woodstock, although within Connecticut's patent lines, was thus left appended to the Bay colony.

The division and transfer of land in the north part of Woodstock facilitated settlement. Sons of Roxbury owners gladly availed themselves of this opportunity to found homes in this popular and growing town. Among the first of these north-half settlers were the sons of Benjamin Child, whose brother John had been for some time a resident in the eastward vale, or "the town," as it was then called. His oldest son, Ephraim, married Priscilla Harris in 1710, and with his young wife soon removed to one of the ample lots in the vicinity of Muddy brook, held by his father. He was soon followed by several gay young bachelors, viz., his brother Benjamin, John May, Ichabod Holmes and Joseph Lyon, who also took up allotments and went busily to work, breaking up land, getting out stumps, fencing, planting and building rude houses, making ready for the prospective brides. The great Cedar Swamp, "left distinct and excepted" for the public use, furnished suitable material for building, though the watch and care needful to prevent pillage was an additional burden to the few inhabitants. The wild land in the west part of the town also furnished shelter for many wolves and other troublesome neighbors. A journal fortunately kept by John May gives a pleasant picture of these stalwart pioneers, now toiling alone for days over some refractory field, and then all joining together in a cheerful "bee" at the final log hauling, carting and planting, helping each other with "team," implements and friendly service. On stormy days they "sort their nails" and potter about house, or visit the several families of kindred in the south half, and recreate with these older residents at public fasts, trainings and town meetings.

The old "Child House" with its Centennial Elm, and the "old May House," (now Lippitt's) stand upon or near the sites of the first rude houses built by Ephraim Child and John May. The homestead of Benjamin Child was on the brook in the heart of the present East Woodstock village. "Old Mr. Maturin Allard," Thomas Gould, tanner, and Deacon Joseph Lyon, were also

among the early inhabitants of the north half. Their first recognition in town meeting was in 1715, when they had liberty to mend their own highways. Maturin Allard was the first man chosen to hold town office. Wolf hunting was apparently greatly stimulated by settlement in this previously waste country, as the town was called to pay many wolf bounties, at twenty shillings a head. Thomas Lyon, Jr., and Jonathan Payson were very active in this service. John May showed much versatility, helping build chimneys and houses, having charge of the Cedar Swamp, and assisting Lieutenant Samuel Morris in placing the first bridge over the Quinebaug river.

These northern settlers attended divine worship in the town meeting house and bore their share of minister's rate and other town expenses. The question of building a new meeting house excited much discussion and wrangling. In 1717, an experienced committee reported "that it would be most profitable as well as most accommodable to build a new house." The town accepted this opinion with thanks, but was slow in deciding upon the site. A letter was written to the residents of the north half relating to moving the meeting house more northerly, but no return was made to it. After long delay and many reversals of decision, Mr. Dwight was sent for "to pray with the town." All previous action was then annulled and the site referred to three men from out of town. Samuel Paine, Smith Johnson and Benjamin Griggs from South Woodstock, and William Lyon, James Corbin and Jonathan Payson from Plaine hill, were appointed, "to remonstrate to the committee from abroad the circumstances of the town, and the arguments they have to offer as to which place they think best, and to write to such committee, provide for and pay them."

These wise men decided "in favor of burying-place spot," the site now occupied by the Congregational church edifice on Woodstock hill. William Lyon, Eliphalet Carpenter and John Chandler, Jr., served as building committee. The house was raised with due solemnities and rejoicing in April, 1720, and the work of building carried on with unwonted celerity. Much attention was given to style and ornament. A body of seats occupied the floor. A pew for the minister was built east of the pulpit. Sixteen other worthies were allowed the privilege of building wall-pews for themselves, the minister's serving for a standard. The leading citizen of the town, Captain John Chandler,

was allowed to build next to the pulpit stairs. Following him in order were Samuel Morris, John Chandler, Jr., Samuel Perrin, Jabez Corbin, John Marcy, Deacon Edward Morris, Deacon John Johnson, James Corbin, Eliphalet Carpenter, Jonathan Payson, Joseph Bartholomew, Edmond Chamberlain, Joseph Lyon, Zachariah Richardson and John Morse.

The cost of this house proved so great a burden to the town that an effort was made to procure a tax upon the land owned by Roxbury non-residents, which called forth a most indignant remonstrance from the citizens of the mother town, and a prompt rejection by the general court. The new house was occupied before completion, the materials of the previous house being used in its construction. Its formal "seating" was not accomplished till 1725, when it was referred to Colonel Chandler and the two deacons, "rules to be observed—age, charge, usefulness." Suitable and desirable young people were allowed to build pews in the hind part of the galleries.

In the following year Woodstock parted with its first minister. The pleasant relations of early years had been succeeded by prolonged uneasiness and wrangling. With many good points, Mr. Dwight was erratic and headstrong. His small salary was poorly paid and in attempting to eke it out by land jobbing and "great strokes of husbandry," he incurred much censure. Difficulties at length reached such a point that a ministerial council was convened, which opined that while there were articles in Mr. Dwight's conduct which were exceptionable and justly grievous to the people, there was nothing that might not be accommodated by suitable methods in a Christian spirit. Mr. Dwight in a long, peculiar and pathetic "declaration" the following Sabbath, left his "staying or going off" for his people to determine, expressing, however, his choice "to finish life and labors together in this place." A town meeting was at once called to consider the question—"Whether it be the opinion of the town that it will be for the glory of God, the interest of religion, and the peace and comfort of the town, that the labors of Mr. Dwight should be continued further among us." To the astonishment of all, and more especially of the pastor, the town voted in the negative, "sixty against one, and one was neutral." Surprised and disheartened by unexpected opposition and alienation, Mr. Dwight at once resigned his ministerial office in Woodstock, the town voting his "total, immediate dismissal."

The lack of formal church co-operation and ministerial concurrence in this dismission prolonged the controversy for a number of years.

The succeeding pastorate of Reverend Amos Throop, ordained May 24th, 1727, was as harmonious as that of Mr. Dwight had been stormy. Various secular matters were now under consideration. As early as 1720 Colonel John Chandler had presented a petition to the general court for the erection of a new county in the south of Massachusetts, to be called Worcester. A bill was presented, ordered to be considered, and then indefinitely deferred. Renewed Indian hostilities gave much annoyance. Colonel John Chandler and his son William were much occupied in military affairs, the latter having charge of a frontier guard for many months. Woodstock households were again gathered into garrisons, and exposed to perils and anxieties. A rumored invasion of Worcester, in 1724, called out a most urgent appeal from that feeble settlement to Colonel Chandler, "having an expectation that he would be a father to it."

In 1724 a final division of the remaining land in the south half was ordered. Some fifty odd pieces scattered about the tract were surveyed and numbered. The commons at Plaine hill and South Woodstock and some other pieces were reserved for public uses; the remaining forty-five pieces of land, amounting to 1,681 acres, were divided among the representatives of the original proprietors. A number of rights were bought up by John Chandler, Jr., which were laid out to him in one strip of two hundred acres. Of the first settlers none were living but John Chandler, Joseph Bugbee and Jonathan Peake. Henry Bowen, John Marcy and Benjamin Griggs had recently deceased. The shares were distributed to thirty-six proprietors. The selectmen at this date were John Chandler, Smith Johnson, Edmond Chamberlain, Jonathan Payson and Samuel Paine; assessors, Samuel Perrin, Payson and Chamberlain; constables, Ephraim Child and John Holmes; highway surveyors, Samuel Lilly, Ebenezer Morris, David Holmes and Maturin Allard; tithing-men, Lieutenant Jabez Corbin and Daniel Abbot; fence viewers, John Child and Edward Morris, Jr.; hog-reeves, Zachariah Richardson, Joseph Wright, Joseph Lyon, Isaac Johnson and Henry Bowen; leather sealer, Stephen Fay. Eliphalet Carpenter and Jonathan Payson served as licensed inn-keepers; John Chandler as retailer.

In 1731 the new county movement carried the day, and Woodstock, with many northward towns, was incorporated into Worcester county. This distant frontier town furnished the leading officers. Already colonel of the regiment, John Chandler, Sr., was now made judge of probate and chief justice of the court of common pleas. John Chandler, Jr., was appointed clerk of the court, and by especial request of the inhabitants removed his residence to Worcester. The first court in the new county was held in Judge Chandler's Woodstock mansion, wherein much legal and public business was transacted. A new road was now laid out from Worcester to Woodstock line, to accommodate business and travel. Woodstock ranked among the foremost towns of the county, its tax list only surpassed by some of the older townships. A well-patronized select school gave evidence of prosperity and progress. Some seventy pupils were reported by its master, Thaddeus Mason, including pupils from the best families in Pomfret and Killingly. An attempt was made to establish a permanent Grammar or high school—the town voting to build a school house for the accommodation of grown children, not hindering subordinate schools. This vote called out one of Woodstock's characteristic controversies. Thirty out of sixty-nine voters dissented from this vote. A strong memorial was immediately prepared, signed by Colonel Chandler, Eliphalet Carpenter, John Holmes, Henry Bowen, and other prominent men, showing that this matter had been laid over to this June 8th, 1730, "to be farther considered on," but instead was not only considered "but transacted upon in a way very grievous to a great number of the inhabitants," and for "preventing any contests, heats or disputes," desired that another town meeting might be called. Though held in the busiest time of the year over a hundred voters were present at this meeting. The former vote was annulled, the new school house for "grown children" countermanded, and directions given for repairing the old Plaine hill school house.

In 1731 liberty was given to build a school house in the north half. The appointed committee affixed the site, east side the highway leading from the house of Ephraim Child to Maturin Allard's, but this site was considered too far eastward. Captain Payson, Moses Barrett, Joseph Chaffee, Jonathan Bugbee and Nathaniel Sanger were appointed a committee to view the site; John May, Benjamin Child and Maturin Allard, to take care of

building said house, but still the work did not go forward. Several other families of Child had now settled in this section, and many children were growing up, and while waiting to agree upon a building site schools were maintained in private houses. John May and Jonathan Morse taught in the winter; school ma'ams were employed in the several sections in the summer.

The town at this date was much exercised by a controversy with its most prominent citizen, Judge Chandler. Deacon William Lyon superseded him as moderator of town meeting; Isaac Tiffany as town clerk; David Holmes as town treasurer. Judge Chandler refused to deliver up the town records, "because proprietors' concerns are mixt with ye town's," and declined "to transcribe what belongs to proprietors from the town books" without some adequate compensation. The town, on her part, refused to be at the charge "of transcribing proprietors' concerns from town affairs," and ordered the selectmen "to get and procure town books from Hon. John Chandler, as speedily as they can by the most prudential ways and means as they shall judge best."

Judge Chandler also disagreed with the town in relation to the settlement of a minister in place of Reverend Amos Throop, deceased. A call was extended to Mr. John Hovey to become their pastor. A tendency to override technicalities, and manage affairs in a somewhat independent fashion, was severely censured by the honorable judge, who "apprehended the whole proceedings both in church and town were the product of arbitrary or mobbish principles, and the foundation being laid upon the sand, the superstructure cannot long continue." The town responded by appointing as agents Deacon William Lyon, Captain Payson and Lieutenant Morris, "To demand, sue for and recover the town book of records." Mr. Hovey declining this irregular call, the town concurred with the church in sending to New Haven "to invite Mr. Abel Stiles to preach with them by way of probation." A large majority expressing their satisfaction with the ministerial performances and qualifications of the candidate, he was ordained pastor of church and town, July 27th, 1737. Able and accomplished, the only drawback in this relation was Mr. Stiles' preference for Connecticut's form of church government. He did not, however, explicitly refuse to sign the church covenant, but presented a written statement of his own views and principles, which was considered satisfactory. This

harmonious settlement contributed to further pacification. Colonel Chandler was again chosen moderator of town meetings. Twenty-five pounds was allowed him for twenty-six years' service as town clerk, and other demands conceded.

School divisions were confirmed in 1738. Captain John May, Deacon William Lyon, Jedidiah Frizzell, James Chaffee and Benjamin Bugbee served as committee in setting the bounds of schools in the several parts of the town, "so that one part may not send their children to any other part, and every part enjoy its own school without being interrupted by any other part." The "parts" thus assigned were the central school at Plaine hill, the southeast quarter, the northeast quarter, and the whole west side of the town. A fifth section was soon after set off at Wabbaquasset, in the south of the town.

The settlement of the western part of Woodstock had now made considerable progress. Its south half had been laid out to original proprietors, and was occupied mainly by their sons. Joshua, third son of Judge Chandler, was one of the first to take possession of his father's out-division, "Lot 23, third range," in the heart of the future village of West Woodstock. He was soon followed by other adventurous youths, viz., Thomas and John Child, John and Joseph Marcy, Nathaniel Johnson, John Perrin, Ebenezer Lyon, Benjamin Corbin, Samuel and Jesse Bugbee, Nathaniel Aspinwall, Ebenezer and Abraham Paine, children of first planters, eager to establish themselves in this pleasant and fertile section. No part of the town was settled under more favorable circumstances—a body of well trained young men, with friends at hand to help and encourage them. In 1731 a two months' school was allowed by the town. In 1733 it was voted "That the inhabitants dwelling on the west side of a due north and south line from the top of Fort hill to the dividend lines on the north and south bounds of the town have liberty to meet together and agree where a school house may be built." Improving this privilege, the western residents met together and voted "That the best place for a school house is north of Clay-pit Brook, between Joshua Chandler's and John Paine's lots."

This house being constructed, other needs were manifested. In 1736 it was found that thirty-five families had gathered within the limits of the west school who were exposed to great hardships and difficulties, especially in cold and difficult times of

the year in travelling to and from public worship in the distant Plaine Hill meeting house. Having borne cheerfully their part of public charges, these westward residents now asked the town to help them pay the expense of hiring a minister through the winter. The town granted liberty to have preaching at their own cost, but refused to afford any help toward its support. After five years' efforts and trials, the western inhabitants again most earnestly besought their friends and neighbors to take their remote and difficult circumstances into their compassionate consideration, and in order to settle the worship of God suitably among them, allow the western half to be erected into a separate town. Aghast at this presumption, the town positively refused to grant its countenance and consent to the western inhabitants. Again, in the spring of 1742, the petitioners pressed their suit, and succeeded by a majority of two in gaining permission to address the general court.

July 2d Benjamin Marcy and thirty-five others forcibly represented "their inconvenience by reason of remoteness from public worship," and gained encouragement to hope that a precinct might be allowed them. Another appeal was made to their obdurate fellow townsmen, not willing "to drive things to extremities," "the settlement of public worship the principal thing we aim at," but again were scornfully repulsed. With equal firmness the western inhabitants again preferred their request to the general court, showing their condition, the distance which each petitioner and his family were obliged to travel to the crowded meeting house on Plaine hill, and begging humbly to be set off into a distinct and separate precinct. A very strong and forcible *response* from the old inhabitants of the town, headed by Judge Chandler, could not in this instance stay the march of progress. A committee appointed to repair to Woodstock and view the situation reported in favor of the petitioners. September 15th, 1743, the report of the committee was accepted, and the "west half part of Woodstock erected into a separate and distinct township, and vested with all the rights and privileges that precincts by law enjoy."

The first parish meeting was held in the one school house, September 27th. John Marcy served as moderator; Isaac Johnson, clerk; Joseph Chaffee, Joseph Marcy and Ebenezer Lyon were chosen society committee; Joseph Chaffee, Moses Lyon and Isaac Johnson, assessors; John Marcy, treasurer. Ebenezer

Smith, John Child and Nathaniel Johnson served as committee, with Captain John May, Jabez Lyon and Daniel Paine of the old society, in affixing the bound between the precincts by a north and south line through the center of the town. The new society assumed the name of New Roxbury, and at once devoted its energies to the establishment of public worship. A tax of two pence a year on all unimproved land, to be applied toward building a meeting house and settling a minister, was allowed by the general assembly. After discussion and delay, the "decisive spot for meeting house" was fixed upon by a committee from abroad, viz., Robert Knowlton, Joseph Leavens and Mr. Walbridge; Isaac Johnson, Joseph Chaffee, Ebenezer Paine, Thomas Child, Jonathan Bugbee, Ebenezer Corbin waiting upon them. After four days' deliberation "a dry knoll east of Bungee Hill" was selected, Mr. Joshua Chandler giving an acre of land for building site. Equal deliberation was manifested in choosing a minister. The successful candidate was Mr. Stephen Williams of Longmeadow, Mass., the worthy son of honored ministerial ancestry. The meeting house was raised in 1746, and made ready for service the following year. A day of fasting preparatory to that of ordination was held in June, 1747, at which time Woodstock's second church was organized, and on June 24th the ordination was effected. Fifty acres of good land and a suitable dwelling house were provided for the young minister, and thus, after ten years' effort, religious worship was prosperously established.

The first meeting of the east half as a distinct parish was held March 6th, 1744. John Holmes was chosen moderator; Thomas Chandler, clerk and treasurer; Jabez Lyon, John Frizzell, Thomas Chandler, assessors; Richard Child, Benjamin Bugbee, collectors; Captain Jonathan Payson, Captain Joseph Wright, Captain Samuel Chandler, committee to call precinct meetings and take care of the prudentials, viz., to sweep the meeting house, mend the glass, etc., at the charge of the precinct. All matters relative to ecclesiastic and school affairs were now referred to the two societies. Five schools were maintained by the first society, viz., Center, North, South, West and Wabbaquasset. New school houses were built "in the southeast part in the old spot," and at Wabbaquasset, sixteen feet square, beside chimney way. A more spacious and elaborate house was provided for the center at Plaine hill. The north district, after ten years' consid-

eration "agreed upon the spot where the highways intersect, east of Capt. Child's house," near the mill site on Muddy brook.

New families were now appearing, especially in the north part of the town. The old settlers had passed away. Deacon William Lyon died in 1742; Judge John Chandler, the most prominent citizen of Worcester county, died in 1743; the last survivor of the original proprietors was Thomas Bacon, who died in 1758, aged 96 years. With the passing away of the pioneer generation and the introduction of new elements, the tie between the inhabitants of Woodstock and the old homes at Roxbury and Boston was greatly weakened. Massachusetts was at this date involved in many difficulties. Her debts were heavy; her currency demoralized. Connecticut was far more prosperous and in greater favor with the British government. Yet the movement for a transfer of allegiance was apparently sudden. Mr. Stiles indeed took care to remind his people of the burthens laid upon them as part of "a province groaning under sore calamities," yet the people in general submitted uncomplainingly without thought of secession or rebellion. The rumor that other "Indented towns" were preparing to assert their claim to the charter privileges of Connecticut was the incentive to action. There was apparently no very strong feeling in the matter, no sense of ill-usage or hostility to the Massachusetts government, but the change was desirable on the ground of absolute right and local convenience. The question was brought before the town March 31st, 1747, "'If a person should be chosen to join those chosen by Suffield, Enfield and Somers in trying to get off to Connecticut.' A large majority voted in the affirmative and chose Colonel William Chandler to lay the affair before the General Assembly of Connecticut. Fourteen persons dissented 'as not likely to prove successful and costing more expense.'"

The petitioners from the four "Indented towns" asked to be received under the jurisdiction of Connecticut, upon the ground that the territory of their towns was included in the original grant to that government, and that the boundary settlement of 1713, under which they were allowed to remain in Massachusetts, had never received the royal sanction, and they did not believe that *commissioners* could transfer or alter the jurisdiction of lands given by royal charter, and that the doing of the same was an infringement on the rights of the subject. The assem-

bly appointed a committee of honorable gentlemen to confer with gentlemen from Massachusetts, who failing in this effort, were farther empowered to consider the affair, and reported in favor of the memorialists. After two years' delay and reiterated memorials, the Connecticut assembly decided that the boundary agreement of 1713 was made through mistake, that Connecticut had received no equivalent for the jurisdiction of these towns, and as the agreement had never received royal confirmation, so it never ought to receive it, and must be looked upon as null and void, and solemnly declared, "that the inhabitants south of the line fixed by Massachusetts were within and had right to the privileges of Connecticut Government."

This decision was received with delight by a large majority of the inhabitants of Woodstock, whose interest in the matter had been greatly stimulated by two years' agitation. A warning from a Connecticut justice soon summoned them "to the choice of proper town officers, of which they were destitute." This "notable meeting" was held in the first meeting house, Friday, 10 A. M., July 28th, 1749 (O. S.). Justice Joseph Leavens, of Killingly, a native of Woodstock, presided. Before entering upon the business of the day, a formal protest was entered by Samuel Chandler, John, Jonathan, Nathan and Asa Payson, John Frizzell, Joseph Wright, Zebulon Dodge and Joseph Griggs, declaring that the meeting was wholly unlawful and had a tendency to stir up the greatest confusion and disorder, if not rebellion. Deciding to take no further notice of this protest, John May was chosen moderator; Henry Bowen, town clerk and first selectman; Isaac Johnson, second selectman; Jabez Lyon, third; Abraham Perrin, fourth; John May, fifth; Andrew Durkee and Ebenezer Paine, constables; Benjamin Bugbee and Samuel Child, grand jurors; all sworn into office by Justice Leavens. William and Daniel Lyon, John Morse, Ephraim and Benjamin Child, Henry Bowen, Thomas Chandler, Daniel Paine and Nathaniel Johnson were then approved to take the freeman's oath agreeably to the laws of Connecticut. At the following town meeting seventy-four additional residents were admitted freemen, and Thomas Chandler and Henry Bowen chosen representatives to the general assembly. Transference of allegiance had thus been practically effected, and Woodstock enrolled among Connecticut townships.

Massachusetts, meanwhile, wholly refused to accept the situation. Spirited remonstrances were laid before the Connecticut assembly; warrants and writs were served upon her revolted subjects; commissioners failed even to agree upon terms of negotiation. Both governments, after some years of bickering and wrangling, attempted to lay their claims before the crown, but owing to many hindrances and public disturbances did not succeed in gaining a hearing. After the close of the French and Indian war another attempt was made to gain a decision from supreme authority in Great Britain, but the revolutionary troubles again prevented its consideration, and the revolted towns were left to Connecticut dominion, according to the original grant of territory. The aggrieved memorialists of Woodstock continued to protest against this transfer, but were forced in time to submit to the will of the majority. In many respects the change was greatly to its advantage. The population of the town in 1753 was 1,336 whites, 30 blacks; value of estates £16,500.

Revolt from Massachusetts was soon followed by a protracted ecclesiastic conflict, resulting likewise in secession and separation. Both controversies sprung from the same germ—the inherent antagonism between the two colonies. Those citizens who favored Massachusetts government and ideas adhered faithfully to the Cambridge platform and principles, upon which the first church in Woodstock was founded, while the especial friends of Mr. Stiles, advocates for the new departure, had imbibed some portion of his regard for the Saybrook platform and religious establishment of Connecticut. Mr. Stiles' request to attend the meetings of the Windham County Association of ministers, "purely for his own information and satisfaction," aroused suspicion and uneasiness in the first years of his ministry. These difficulties had so increased that in 1752 a council was held, in which nine specific points of grievance were brought forward, discussed and carefully adjusted. Yet notwithstanding this amicable settlement, old fires were rekindled by the "amazing conduct" of Mr. Stiles in introducing a covenant, embodying as he claimed the substance of the Cambridge platform, and without proper warning or discussion, declaring its adoption upon the subscription of himself and a small number of the brethren. A large number of church members protested earnestly against this imposition, and positively refused to submit to it. Attempts

to compound the difference were wholly fruitless, and after a few months of wrangling the opposition withdrew from Mr. Stiles' preaching, and held meetings by themselves. In 1756 the aggrieved party—twenty-three brethren and twenty-one sisters—by the advice of an ecclesiastic council, formally "re-assumed in church state on the ancient basis of the church, whereof we stand members," and were declared by the council "a church in regular form, according to the usual method."

This procedure at once raised the question which of the two churches had the right to the tithes and property vested in the First society, and both parties carried their woes to the general assembly. Mr. Stiles asked for a council to hear and determine the differences; his opponents prayed for "a distinct, separate society." A council was granted but could not agree upon terms of statement. Every day the breach widened. The old church party reiterated to the assembly "the inconsistency of the thing in its own nature," and "the violence that must be done to our consciences, in that we should be compelled to uniformity with a minister and his adherents, who have so far departed from the ancient order, and be made to suffer for abiding in conformity with the sister churches throughout the province in which we were first embodied," while Mr. Stiles adroitly insinuated charges of Separatism, irregularity and disaffection to the *civil constitution* of Connecticut. The condition of religious affairs at that date, the violence and disorders caused by the Separate movement, gave great weight to these insinuations, and undoubtedly warped the judgment of councillors and legislators. The ministry of state and county sympathized mainly with Mr. Stiles, and the small body representing the original church covenant was sorely beset and hindered, and even refused the privilege of communion with the church in the West parish. A number of prominent ministers appointed by the general assembly in 1757, found the difficulties very great—"all peace, unity and good agreement wholly destroyed and gone from among the people of the society and members of the church," but found no practicable way of accommodation.

The majority for a time apparently favored the Stiles party, which was thus enabled to lay taxes upon the whole society, but after some years the balance of power had shifted, the question assumed a more definite sectional character, descendants of first settlers in the south half insisting upon the old church covenant,

the more varied population of the north adhering to Mr. Stiles and Connecticut church government. Conflicting votes were now passed at successive society meetings, whereby affairs were thrown into the greatest confusion. Rival committees refused to warn meetings in behalf of their opponents. The assembly, wearied out with their contentions, turned a deaf ear to all petitions. The old church party, in 1758, secured a vote to assess all estates in the society for support of their own minister, and proceeded to collect it. Windham courts declared the assessment unlawful, but had not power to grant relief.

Emboldened by success, the anti-Stiles party proceeded to lay hands on the meeting house. Richard Flynn was chosen key-keeper; Samuel Chandler and Colonel John Payson deputized to get possession of the key. Failing in this, Zebulon Dodge was directed to take off the lock and put on another, and deliver the new key to Mr. Flynn. Victory was finally achieved by a society vote: "I. That the society meet in the meeting house in said society on Lord's day for public worship for the future. II. That there be a committee chosen to supply the pulpit till farther orders, in the room of Mr. Stiles. III. That Mr. Samuel Chandler be a committee to supply the pulpit with some suitable person to preach, and that the clerk serve Mr. Stiles with a copy of the transactions of this society, that he may know the minds of the society, and so not presume to go into the desk on Lord's day to disturb the society in the public worship as he has heretofore done."

In spite of this summary ejection Mr. Stiles *did* presume to enter the desk already occupied by the opposition minister, and was only ousted by a hand-to-hand contest. This battle cleared the air, and virtually ended the controversy. The northern belligerents withdrew with their discomfited minister. A committee appointed by general assembly arranged an amicable settlement. The society division besought so many years was at length effected—the old south retaining the meeting house, the young north carrying off the minister. Church property was divided between the two societies. Isaac Johnson, Parker and John Morse, John May, Nathaniel and Elisha Child signed the agreement July 20th, 1760. Church records were left in the hands of Mr. Stiles, society records with the clerk of the First or South society. The question as to which body could claim the title of "First church of Woodstock" was ignored as too delicate for contemporary discussion.

In spite of these dissensions the town was gaining rapidly. Many new settlers purchased farms, especially in the north part of the town. Various business enterprises were set in motion; mill privileges and iron ore were utilized, trade and production stimulated. New men came to the front. At the town meeting December 1st, 1760, Isaac Johnson served as moderator. Thomas Chandler was chosen town clerk and treasurer; Isaac Johnson, Thomas Chandler, Nathaniel Johnson, Ebenezer Smith, Jr., Nathaniel Child, selectmen; Moses Chandler, constable and collector of colony tax; Moses Child, collector of excise; Samuel McClellan, George Hedge, Elijah Lyon, Abner Harris, John Chamberlain, Amos Paine, Matthew Hammond, Jonathan and Henry Child, Ebenezer Child, Jr., Ebenezer Corbin, Jonathan Morris, Hezekiah Smith, Captain Joseph Hayward, Joshua Chandler, surveyors of highways; Silas Bowen, Lieutenant Hezekiah Smith, grand jurymen; Silas Bowen, Moses Child, Hezekiah Smith, Moses Chandler, Upham May, Ebenezer Child, Jr., Samuel Child, Jr., listers; Nathaniel Child, Abijah Child, Samuel Bowen, collectors of rates; George Hedge, Josiah Hammond, Stephen Marcy, Asa Morris, Caleb May, Elisha Child, tithing men; Benjamin Bugbee, William Chapman, fence viewers; Darius Ainsworth, Zebulon Marcy, Joseph Manning, Ezra May, Isaac Bowen, Nathan Child, haywards; Moses Child, receiver of stores; Jedidiah Morse, packer; Joseph Peake, gauger; Richard Flynn, Daniel Bugbee, branders. Ebenezer Smith was chosen town clerk in place of Thomas Chandler, removed to Vermont. Lieutenant Hezekiah Smith and other officers were excused to serve in the army.

Needful improvements were gradually carried out. Highway districts were set out in 1773—five in the First society, in charge of Thomas Baker, Jonathan Allen, Jonathan Lyon, Jed. Bugbee, Matthew Bowen; four in New Roxbury, directed by Daniel Paine, Benjamin Howard, John Perrin, Samuel Narramore; four in the North society, under Caleb May, Ephraim Carpenter, Eliakim May, Stephen Tucker. New roads were laid out superseding the old range ways. A committee appointed in 1771 to examine the financial condition of the town, reported that the town's money for a number of years had been prudently handled. In public affairs Woodstock manifested much interest, taking a prominent part in political discussion and demonstration. A strong radical element was very forcibly called

into exercise throughout the whole revolutionary struggle, leading her citizens to go far beyond their proportion in supplies of men and munitions of war. With equal spirit she resisted all Massachusetts' attempts to coerce her into subjection, and gallantly entered the field in the contest for the shire-ship of Windham county. The one-sided position of Windham town was a grievance to the north part of the county. The proposed change to Pomfret was still unsatisfactory. Woodstock met the dilemma by proposing that Connecticut should remove her northern bound some four and a half miles farther north, "agreeable to the manifest intent of the Province charter," and "then take a just view of the situation of Woodstock and its conveniency for a shire town;" a proposition which the Lower House did not deign even to consider.

In the discussion concerning the adoption of the federal constitution, Woodstock showed her wonted independence, indulging in large and warm debate until the dusk of the evening and adjourning after much opposition. At the second meeting, which was very fully attended, Mr. Stephen Paine and Deacon Timothy Perrin were chosen delegates, and although it was alleged that the vote was illegal, sundry persons presuming to vote who were not legal voters, they attended the meeting in Hartford, January 3d, 1788, and voted against the adoption of the constitution. Woodstock's native radicalism and the prevalence of what were called "sectaries," developed a strong opposition to federalism. The anti-federal or republican party found many supporters in town, and Baptist and Methodist radicals were occasionally sent as representatives.

Deacon Jedidiah Morse, long remembered as one of the strong men of Woodstock, now served as town clerk and treasurer. Captains Nehemiah Lyon, Amos Paine and Ephraim Manning, Captains Daniel and William Lyon, Thomas May, Noah Mason, Shubael Child, Darius Ainsworth, Benjamin Haywood, Ebenezer Smith, Nehemiah Clarke, Silas May, Ebenezer Coburn, appear among town officers. Hon. Charles Church Chandler, grandson of Judge John Chandler and his successor in the old Chandler homestead at South Woodstock, the first lawyer in Woodstock and a man of wide influence, died suddenly in 1787.

Samuel McClellan, general of Connecticut's Fifth Brigade, was now one of the most prominent men in Windham county.

His valuable services during the war of the revolution were everywhere recognized. Woodstock's native military spirit was greatly stimulated by his presence and example, and her two commons were noted for a brilliant succession of military training. These gala days were exceedingly popular, bringing together a great concourse of people, and were marked by the customary hilarity and carousings. General McClellan and his revolutionary war horse were especial features of these occasions. John, son of General McClellan, was early promoted to the rank of brigade major. After studying law with Hon. Charles H. Chandler, he entered upon practice at Woodstock hill, and was very active in establishing Woodstock Academy and other public enterprises.

Turnpike schemes awakened much interest in Woodstock. The road from Boston to Hartford was laid out through Thompson to her great disappointment, but she secured the Norwich and Worcester turnpike, with a branch diverging to Sturbridge, and also a direct road from General McClellan's corner to Providence. This latter road was afterward continued to Somers. Middlesex Gore on the north, left outside of town bounds by the reconstruction of the state boundary, was claimed by Woodstock in 1793, but she did not succeed in retaining possession. In 1797 an attempt was made by a number of western residents—divested, as they claimed, “in great measure of the privilege of free and legal inhabitants of the town of Woodstock, and a participation in the election of town officers, owing to their remote distance,” to obtain independent town privileges. Some encouragement was given by the other societies; but a majority of voters “would not consent to new town.” Relief was obtained in time by holding town meetings alternately in the three societies.

At the town meeting in 1807, John McClellan, Esq., served as moderator. Jedidiah Morse still retained the position of town clerk and treasurer; selectmen, John McClellan, Captains Luther Baldwin, William May and Jedidiah Kimball, and Deacon Stephen Johnson; constables, David Frizzell, Parker Morse, Amasa Lyon; grand jurors, Henry Welles, Thomas Corbin, Captain Asa Child, Darius Barlow; listers, David Frizzell, William Lyon, Darius Barlow, Doctor Haviland Morris, Captains Carpenter Bradford, Aaron Child and Judah Lyon; pound keepers, William Flynn, Roswell Ledoyt, Chester May; tavern keepers, Wil-

liam Bowen, Jonathan Day, Daniel Lyon, Charles W. Noyes, Chester May, John Child, Sanford Holmes, Perley Lyon, Earl Clapp and Lemuel Perry; Colonel David Holmes, Captain William May, Jedidiah Kimball, committee to wait upon turnpike commissioners.

The multiplication of taverns testified to the increase in travel and teaming. It was a day of emigration, when all the main roads were thronged with wagons and teams, transporting families westward. Manufacturing was also coming in vogue, stimulating business intercourse. As yet Woodstock farms sufficed mainly for the maintenance of its population, with such business as was demanded by the daily needs of its inhabitants. The town was thrifty and healthy, standing high among the towns of the county, exceeding in 1810 all others in population. Again in 1820, it stood at the head with 3,017 inhabitants, the first town in the county to enter the thirties.

During the war of 1812 she had shown her usual spirit, though a majority of her citizens opposed the course of the president, and manifested their disapproval in denunciatory resolutions. The summons to the relief of New London in June, 1813, awakened much enthusiasm. James Lyon was sent out to warn the militia, and returning from his mission before sunrise, found two companies already mustered on the common, under charge of Adjutant Flynn, ready to march to the scene of action. Bowen's tavern, under the poplars at Woodstock hill, was a place of much resort during this busy period, and was once the scene of a remarkable conjunction between two government cannon, ordered from different establishments by the secretaries of war and navy, which met before the tavern door at the same moment,

In the succeeding battles for a new state constitution and county seat Woodstock bore her part bravely, enrolling her vote against the constitution, and persistently refusing to pay any share of the expense of the removal of the courts to Brooklyn. This was the more unreasonable in view of the radical tendencies of the town, and its uncommon addiction to excessive litigation. A number of protracted and troublesome lawsuits were carried on during this period, and the three lawyers, Esquires McClellan, Ebenezer Stoddard and John F. Williams, found abundant practice. The pugnacity of Woodstock's citizens made politics lively. The anti-Masonic controversy raged with much fierceness, breaking down old party lines and inciting new combinations.

Hon. Ebenezer Stoddard, who had served as representative in congress from 1821 to 1825, was elected lieutenant-governor of Connecticut in 1835. Temperance and slavery agitation called out much interest, and were soon introduced into politics. A large number of taverns had been maintained during the days of heavy teaming and hard drinking. In 1828 the licensed tavern keepers were George Bowen, William K. Greene, Rhodes Arnold, Aaron Corbin, Judah Lyon, Chauncey Kibbe, Thomas L. Truman, Hezekiah Bugbee. With the progress of temperance reformation the number gradually diminished. In 1833 Chauncey Kibbe, William Healy, George Bowen, Amasa Carpenter and Rhodes Arnold were nominated. Two years later and only Rhodes Arnold and James Lamson were allowed the privilege. Five persons were refused nomination, and the petition of George Bowen, Danforth Child and Rhodes Arnold for license to retail wine and spirituous liquors was rejected. In 1836 Lyman and William Hiscox, George Bowen, Pelatiah and Zenas D. Wight and Danforth Child were approbated to be retailers of wines and distilled spirituous liquors at the several stores.

After the Washingtonian temperance movement of 1840 a special town meeting was called, January 6th, "to see if the town will grant liberty as the statute law directs to any person or persons to sell wine or spirituous liquors in the town the year ensuing." A decided refusal was given. Even the discreet application of Mr. George Bowen to sell such articles "for medicinal purposes only and no other" was decided in the negative. And as tavern keeping was quite superfluous apart from liquor selling, the application of Mr. Amasa Carpenter to keep a house of public entertainment met the same fate. For fifty years no liquor selling has been licensed by the town of Woodstock, save for medicinal and chemical purposes. Trainings and taverns were also simultaneously abandoned, or transformed into a mere shadow of former greatness.

The movement for the abolition of slavery aroused immediate interest in Woodstock. Its citizens aided in the formation of the early "Liberty Party." In 1843 Doctor Samuel Bowen of Thompson, received 116 Woodstock votes as the congressional candidate of the abolitionists. So powerful was the party that for three years it obstructed the choice of town representatives. In 1847 a compromise was effected between the whigs and liberty party men, and Leonard M. Deane and Stephen Hopkins elected.

The latter is starred on the roll of representatives as the first "Abolitionist" in the state legislature. Woodstock's abolition vote was much larger than that of any other town. So strong was this element that in 1856, when the republican party came into prominence, 478 votes were cast for "Fremont and Freedom."

In population Woodstock has suffered gradual loss, numbering some hundreds less than in 1820. Constant emigration and the lack of manufacturing interests have caused this shrinkage, yet there are indications that the lowest point has been reached and renewed immigration set in. Many respected citizens have carried on the affairs of the town these seventy years. In 1830, October 4th, John Paine, Esq., served as moderator; John Fox was chosen treasurer and town clerk; Oliver Morse, William Lyon, 2d, Laban Underwood, Simon Barrett, Chauncey Kibbe, selectmen; Perley Lyon, Rhodes Arnold, Rodney Martin, assessors; John Chandler, 2d, Christopher Arnold, Otis Perry, board of relief; Silas H. Cutler, John Child, Oliver Saunders, constables and collectors of taxes; Charles Child, Jr., Elisha C. Walker, Spaulding Barstow, Simon Barrett, Elisha Paine, Alexander Dorrance, grand jurors; P. Skinner, Cyrus Davenport, Cyprian Chandler, John W. Wells, Amos Paine, Jr., Benajah Bugbee, 2d, Alexander Dorrance, Charles Skinner, Charles Crawford, Ebenezer Paine, John Chamberlin, Penuel Corbin, Jr., William Child, Alfred Walker, tithing men; George Bowen, sealer of weights and measures; Charles Smith, Asa Lyman, John Fowler, 2d, fence viewers; Aaron Corbin, Charles Smith, James Lyon, committee on alteration of highway districts. The rate list of 1820 amounting in value to about \$36,000, comprised 363 dwelling houses, 16 mills, 399 horses and mules, 3,009 neat cattle, 27 riding carriages, 13 other carriages, 169 clocks, watches and timepieces. One academy building, 18 school houses and 5 churches (houses of worship) were reported.

Town offices in 1861, at the breaking out of the war of the rebellion, were: Ezra C. May, clerk, registrar and treasurer; Samuel M. Fenner, Asa Goodell, Hezekiah Bishop, selectmen; George N. Lyman, S. W. Bugbee, collectors; Nathan E. Morse, constable; R. S. Mathewson, H. S. Perry, Oliver Marcy, Elias Child, 2d, Baldwin Vinton, Carlo May, grand jurors; Simon Bartholomew, George Bugbee, Albert Morse, assessors; F. W. Flynn, L. D. Underwood, C. C. Potter, board of relief; William Lester,

Otis Perrin, land surveyors; George Bugbee, George A. Paine, J. W. Sessions, S. M. Fenner, Alexander Warner, M. Bradford, John White, board of education; Stephen L. Potter, school treasurer. Very heavy burthens were brought upon the town during this period, in bounties, supplies for soldiers and care of their families. Woodstock maintained its ancient reputation in meeting promptly all public demands, and in the character and service of those who went to the battle. Soon after the close of the war efforts were made to reduce the debt that had been contracted. At the annual town meeting in 1868, Mr. Henry C. Bowen offered to give \$5,000, a thousand a year, if the town would cancel the debt in five years. This generous offer was received with general favor, and immediate measures taken for raising the town's proportion. By levying an additional tax each year the needful amount was secured, and the town freed from this encumbrance. The great American flag used at the monster mass meeting of 1868 was also presented to the town by Mr. Bowen.

The republican party was largely in ascendancy during the years of the war. In 1872 democrats and liberals united on a ticket for town officers, "composed of good men," but did not succeed in breaking the ranks of the republicans. Ezra C. May still served as town clerk and treasurer; selectmen, George W. Clarke, Stephen D. Skinner, Nathan E. Morse; assessors, Martin Paine, Joseph R. Barber, Joseph M. Morse; board of relief, Amos A. Carrol, William H. Church, John A. Mason; grand jurors, Erastus H. Wells, Henry T. Child, Abiel Fox, Arthur Stetson, Ezra C. Child, Ebenezer Bishop; constables, P. Skinner, Jeremiah Church, John H. Child; John Paine, agent; John A. Mason, treasurer of town deposit fund; registrars of voters, Dis. 1. Lewis J. Wells, William H. Pearson; Dis. 2. George Bugbee, Albert Kenyon; Dis. 3. John Paine, George A. Penniman; school visitors, George S. F. Stoddard, Sylvester Barrows, Ebenezer Bishop, Monroe W. Ide, George Bugbee. George A. Paine served faithfully for several terms in the important office of school fund commissioner.

In 1880 the population of Woodstock numbered 2,639; children between 4 and 16 years of age, 556; grand list, \$943,526; dwelling houses, 607; mills, stores, distilleries, manufactories, 49; horses, asses, mules, 647; neat cattle, 2,929; carriages and pleasure wagons, 87. Herbert M. Gifford had then succeeded to

the office of town clerk and treasurer, retaining it till 1888; he was succeeded by Mr. Newton D. Skinner. The present selectmen are Charles H. May, Stephen D. Skinner and Reed Tourtellotte.

Woodstock as a Connecticut town was first included in Pomfret probate district. Its first clerk was Penuel Bowen, of Woodstock, under whose administration the records were lost in the destruction of his house by fire. Woodstock's specific probate court was constituted in 1831, John Paine, judge, George Bowen, clerk. Political jealousies made this office very transitory and migratory for many years, transferring it from parish to parish. John F. Williams, Theophilus B. Chandler, Daniel Lyman, Ezra Child, George A. Paine, G. S. F. Stoddard, T. D. Holmes and Stephen Potter, were among the many who served as judge of probate. A new departure was effected under the administration of Judge Oscar Fisher, who continued in service from July 4th, 1867, to January, 1881, when the present incumbent, Judge Oliver Perry, entered upon service. The wisdom of the civil service reform in this department is conceded by all parties.

Parish divisions in Woodstock are unusually pronounced and definite. After a serious contest the west half of the town was set off as a distinct parish or religious society in 1743, and still remains nearly or quite intact, as the Second or West parish. The First or East parish was again divided after the church controversy of 1850-60. The villages of Woodstock hill, South Woodstock and Quasset are included in the First society. West Woodstock parish includes the villages of West Woodstock and Woodstock Valley. The Third or Northeast society includes East Woodstock village, formerly called Muddy Brook, and North Woodstock village, first known as Village Corners. Town meetings are held alternately in each of the three parishes, and representatives are sent alternately, each sending a representative for two successive years, while one is without a representative every year.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

THE TOWN OF WOODSTOCK—(Concluded).

Early Industries.—Manufacturing.—Decline of Manufacturing.—Agriculture.—Woodstock Agricultural Society.—Senexet Grange.—Theft Detecting Society.—Woodstock Academy.—Church on Woodstock Hill.—The Second Church.—Baptist Churches.—East Woodstock Church.—Methodism.—Universalist Church.—Advent Christian Church.—Present Condition.—Public Celebrations.—Biographical Sketches.

THE industries of Woodstock during its first half century were restricted to the inevitable farming, and such simple arts and trades as are needful to support existence. The first experiment in wider fields was an attempt to utilize the bog iron deposit in West parish. Benjamin Marcy and other residents established a furnace or forge and carried on the works some years previous to 1764, when Marcy sold his right to Hezekiah Smith. Smith and Asahel Marcy continued the business for a number of years, probably until the emigration of the former, and during the revolutionary period the furnace became extinct, but the ore for many years was carried to Stafford for smelting. The first Woodstock brick yard, saw and grist mills were carried on by Ebenezer Lyon, who owned much land in the vicinity of Black pond. A dam still standing at the outlet of the pond, was built by his slaves—the only existing specimen of Woodstock's slave labor. Mr. Lyon was one of the first settlers of Woodstock, a man of wealth for that day and influence. Saw and grist mills were also early established in Woodstock Valley and at South Woodstock and Muddy Brook.

An unique industry was undertaken by Peregrine White, who purchased "a shop on the road from Nathaniel Child to Sturbridge" (a little west of Muddy Brook village) "with all manner of tools and implements" for working on metals, in 1774. This early silversmith shop developed into an institution for the manufacture of tall clocks with full moons and elaborate appurtenances, highly esteemed and patronized for many years by all the

surrounding country. Southward, at Quasset, were found the pottery works of Mr. Thomas Bugbee, established in 1793. The original clay deposit, so useful in constructing chimneys and mason work, was here worked up into all manner of jars, jugs, mugs, inkstands, milk pans and pudding pots. A foreign artisan was employed by the establishment to oversee the various processes of grinding, mixing, kneading and sizing. Each separate piece was fashioned into shape by hand and turning wheel. As many as six kiln-bakings were needed every summer, and some five thousand pieces turned out. This pottery ware was carried far and wide in Mr. Bugbee's familiar pottery cart, and found a market in every household. At least two thousand milk-pans were demanded every season. The bridal outfit of the day included a goodly collection of this fashionable Woodstock pottery ware.

The manufacture of potash was carried on by various parties, especially by Colonel Russel, of Muddy Brook, who had a large and complete establishment, comprising the newest outfit and processes. Coopering, tanning and shoemaking were among the indispensable industries of the town, giving employment to a number of willing workmen. The first fulling mill in West Woodstock was built by Deacon Henry Bowen in 1791, below Lyon's slave dam, with the privilege of use of stream and setting up tenter-bars for drying cloth. This mill was afterward moved down stream and sold to Daniel Mashcraft, who set up a carding machine and continued the business of carding and cloth fulling until woolen manufactories came into vogue. This establishment had a high reputation, farmers' wives from many miles distance bringing to it their wool and domestic cloth for carding and finishing. A carding machine was also set up at Black pond by "Mason and Sumner" in 1803. Grist and saw mills in this vicinity were carried on by Andrew Williams for a number of years. In 1820 James Arnold built and operated a fulling mill on Sawmill brook. A little later, Rhodes Arnold built a saw and shingle mill, and a cider-brandy distillery was also carried on by the brothers. The Hosmer grist mill in the southeast corner of the town was an established institution, dating back to the first settlement of the town.

The rage for cotton spinning reached Woodstock somewhat late for its own benefit. In 1814 Moses Arnold, purchaser of the old Chandler homestead at South Woodstock, united with Wil-

liam Bowen, Thomas Hubbard and Benjamin Duick, of Pomfret, as the "Arnold Manufacturing Company in Woodstock," and as soon as possible put up a wooden building and engaged in cotton spinning. At nearly the same date, Jonathan and William May, John Paine and William Lyon, of Woodstock, with Walter and Royal Paine, of Providence, and Job Williams, of Pomfret, were incorporated as "The Muddy Brook Cotton Manufacturing Company." A factory building was erected a little north of the village, and works set in motion. Chester, Willard and Rensselaer Child, Amasa and Judah Lyon, were incorporated as "The Woodstock Manufacturing Company, for the purpose of manufacturing cloths and other fabrics of wool and cotton," in 1815. A small building and other accommodations in the north of the town were soon provided by this company.

The great depression caused by the return of peace and influx of English goods seriously affected all these companies. The Arnold Company was reconstructed, passing mainly into the hands of the Arnolds. The factories of North Woodstock were reported in the *Gazetteer* of 1819 as upon "a large scale" and doing business extensively. The Woodstock Company now manufactured woolen goods exclusively. In addition to hard times, it suffered from the treachery of an English overseer, who cut the warp in the looms before absconding. This mischief was repaired by the skill and ingenuity of Charles Walker, a youth in their employ, who saved the company from ruin and laid the foundation for personal prosperity and usefulness. In addition to this factory, Judah Lyon carried on the blacksmith's trade and the manufacture of the first patent iron ploughs, superseding the clumsy wooden implements then in use—an innovation which met at first the customary ridicule and opposition.

The Mashcraft establishment in West Woodstock passed into the hands of Joseph Hollinsworth, an Englishman, who manufactured woolen cloth for a number of years. The old Holmes privilege at South Woodstock was purchased about 1840 by Daniel Warner, who engaged in the manufacture of cotton batting. In a few years he built a brick factory building for the manufacture of twine. Leonard Cocking established a woolen mill at Quasset, building a new stone mill in 1844, and utilizing the old Baptist meeting house for a second building. In 1842 Mr. John Lake set in motion "the first, last and only tub and pail shop" in this part of Connecticut. Six thousand tubs and

pails were reported as the annual product, the tubs finding market in Boston, the pails in Norwich. In 1852 he purchased the "old oil mill privilege" of Mr. Rufus Mathewson and engaged successfully in the manufacture of window sash and blinds. The Hosmer mills passed into the hands of Captain Edward B. Harris about 1830. A new building was soon erected and devoted to the manufacture of cotton machinery, which was carried on quite extensively, supplying workmen and factories.

Enterprise was stimulated at the growing center, Village Corners, by the opening of the Central turnpike from Boston to Hartford, replacing the former route through Thompson. The manufacture of wagons and carriages by L. M. Deane & Co. was here initiated about 1835. The excellent character of the work soon won a wide popularity, and the business was carried on successfully for many years. With these many lines of business now carried forward, shoe making stood at the head. Peletiah and Zenas Wight, sons of a veteran tanner and currier in Woodstock Valley, succeeded to the business of their father and added to it as early as 1828 the manufacture of the first sale shoes in Connecticut. Men and women, boys and girls hastened to take advantage of the golden opportunity thus offered, and soon a large business was built up. Other manufacturers hastened to follow this example, and sale shoe-making became a leading business interest, especially notable for the vast number of hands that could be employed in it. In Woodstock and for miles surrounding nearly every dwelling house had a room fitted up or appended for a shoe-making shop. The Wights making a specialty of the shoe called stoggy, the name was applied to the valley, which was known many years by the nickname, "Stoggy Hollow." A. & O. Hiscox and L. & M. Hiscox engaged in the shoe business in this locality, employing about twenty hands each.

Shoe business was begun in West Woodstock village about 1833 by John P. Chamberlin and John O. Fox. In spite of frequent failures and disasters, it continued briskly under a Mechanics' Association and various private shoe dealers, and greatly facilitated the building up and improvement of the village. Lyman Sessions was a prominent shoe manufacturer, engaged also in trade and various enterprises. Village Corners enjoyed an extensive boom in connection with the shoe business of Amasa Carpenter, who also kept the tavern, built new houses and en-

gaged in trade. So extensively was shoe manufacturing pushed forward that in 1845, 5,651,580 pairs of shoes were accredited to Woodstock, and fifty bushels of shoe pegs. Employment was given to 4,918 males, 4,907 women and girls.

The tannery of Mr. Elias Mason, near Muddy Brook village, flourished greatly during this period, furnishing a large supply of leather to these various establishments. But this manufacturing activity was of comparatively short continuance. Flood, fire and financial panic were inimical to Woodstock enterprise. The first serious disaster occurred in 1834, when a new dam constructed at Muddy brook, by Colonel Jonathan May, was carried away by a freshet, involving in its loss the mill and blacksmith shop of Captain Judah Lyon, and much other property. The damage accruing was so heavy that the Muddy Brook Manufacturing Company never regained its footing. The commercial collapse of 1837 brought down several prominent shoe operators; the failure and death of Mr. Elias Mason depressed business and carried distress and straitness to many households. Factories, north, south, east and west were destroyed by fire. Much loss and havoc were wrought by the heavy freshet, February 13th, 1866. The several privileges at South Woodstock had been bought up by Mr. Daniel Warner, who constructed a new reservoir and dam, intended to carry forward large manufacturing operations. Dam and factory were washed away, together with Lake's sash and blind shop, a blacksmith's shop and other buildings, part of Mr. S. M. Fenner's store, and three bridges belonging to the town. Later factory buildings at Quasset and Woodstock Valley, and even the mills on the old Bartholomew site of 1686, were all consumed by fire.

To these casualties were added the inevitable changes resulting from the introduction of new methods of business and travel. Monster cotton and woolen factories crushed out the minor enterprises, and machine-made shoes greatly lessened the demand for those of hand labor. Manufactures and trade were alike drawn to the convenient railroad center, and Woodstock's shoe shops and factories were stranded by the law of progress. Shoe manufacturing, however, was carried on by T. P. Leonard & Co., in Woodstock valley, until about 1870.

Various business enterprises are still maintained in the southwest corner of the town. Grain and lumber business has been carried on by A. Hiscox and son for many years, on the site of

the old Lyon grist mill. The Kenyon factory at Kenyonville has been remarkably successful, and still flourishes under the skillful management of W. S. Kenyon. The phosphate manufactory of Sanford Bosworth gravitated to Putnam, but the mill is now occupied by James B. Tatem, for the manufacture of all kinds of wooden handles, from a small awl to a trip-hammer. About 50,000 feet of lumber are worked up every year, giving employment to six or eight men. The lumber interest in West Woodstock is of much importance. A large quantity of timber is annually sent to market. Water-mill saw mills are kept busily at work by J. B. Tatem & Son, A. Hiscox & Son, E. C. Chamberlain, C. H. Stone and Luther Marcy, with steam to help out a short supply of water.

Carriage making is still carried on at North Woodstock village. Mr. Thomas Milligan occupies the former Deane manufactory site; Newton D. Skinner has accommodations in the vicinity. Colman continues the manufacture of twine on the site of Lake's sash and blind factory, and a stockinet yarn factory is run at Quasset by Mr. Arthur Williams. Needful grist mills and saw mills are maintained in different parts of the town. Vicinity to thriving business centers has greatly diminished the local trade in the several villages, and in place of the numerous lively stores formerly demanded scarcely one in each manages to support existence.

The leading interest in the town is agricultural. Woodstock farms supported a large population long before the days of experimental manufacture. With the building up of Southbridge, Webster and Putnam, has come a ready market and greatly increased demand for the products of the farm. The improvement in farming utensils, the multiplication of agricultural newspapers, books, clubs and co-operative societies have farther stimulated interest and progress in all the arts of husbandry. Improved methods of farming have been adopted, new breeds of cattle introduced, and advance made in various directions. The fine cattle raised on the "Captain William Lyon farm" by the late Mr. Benjamin Sumner, were celebrated throughout the agricultural fairs of New England. Woodstock farmers, viz., Amos Paine, James McClellan, and others, were prominent in the first agricultural societies of Windham county. Their exhibits were conspicuous in the successive annual fairs at Brooklyn. In 1861 it was deemed expedient to organize a distinct so-

ciety in the north part of the county. Horace Sabin, Lucius Fitts, Winthrop O. Green, Edmond Wilkinson, James Allen, Gilbert W. Phillips, Rufus S. Mathewson, Ezra Deane, George Penniman, John F. Williams, Jonathan Skinner, Azel Sumner, Horace Gaylord, John H. Simmons, Thomas E. Graves, Jeremiah Olney, were accordingly incorporated as "The Woodstock Agricultural Society"—authorized to hold property not exceeding \$20,000 and dispose of it at pleasure. Ample and convenient grounds were secured at South Woodstock, the society holding its first fair on the Common and using the vestry of the Baptist church for a hall. The success of the first exhibition guaranteed the permanence of the society. Attendance and interest were all that could be desired, and the annual Woodstock fair was thenceforth classed among the established institutions of Windham county.

Year by year the interest has increased, extending to residents of other towns, and greatly stimulating agricultural development. The average attendance is rated at some six thousand, the exhibitions surpassing also the average of the ordinary county fair. The list of life members includes nearly five hundred names, embracing many of the most wide-awake men in the county. The office of president has been filled by Messrs. Ezra Child, Ezra Deane, Horace Sabin, Pomfret, John Giles, L. M. Deane, John O. Fox, O. H. Perry, G. A. Penniman, Oscar Tourtellotte, Thompson, C. H. May, T. W. Williams, Pomfret, S. O. Bowen, Eastford, G. A. Bowen, M. F. Towne, Thompson, F. W. Perry and A. M. Bancroft. The present officers are: President, Henry T. Child; vice-presidents, W. I. Bartholomew, Pomfret, G. T. Bixby, E. A. Wheelock, Putnam; recording secretary, L. J. Wells; corresponding secretary, H. W. Hibbard; treasurer, Amos M. Paine; auditors, T. W. Williams, S. H. Phillips, W. A. Weaver, Jr.; directors, S. O. Bowen, J. M. Morse, C. N. Chandler, R. E. Smith, Putnam, J. H. Larned, Pomfret, H. K. Safford, L. A. Catlin, L. H. Healey, F. Cutler, Putnam, G. A. Hawkins, Thompson; committee of arrangements—for hall, C. H. Child, G. C. Williams, W. H. Chandler, Mrs. E. W. Arnold; for rental of grounds, A. M. Paine, L. J. Wells; marshall, G. T. Bixby.

With growing prosperity accommodations have multiplied. A hall built on South Woodstock common by Mr. Daniel Warner in 1860 was occupied by the society till 1871, when a new building was erected on the "Fair Grounds" purchased from

Mr. Thomas Warner. The judges' stand and cattle sheds were added in a few years. In 1885 a large addition was made to the hall, with much increased accommodations. A band stand, poultry house and grand stand have been since added, the latter seating about seven hundred people. A dining hall and kitchen under the grand stand, and a horse barn with stalls, are the latest improvements. The patrons of this institution take pride in its excellent management and the encouragement given to improvement in every branch of agriculture.

A very wide awake farmers' club enjoyed profitable discussion for many years, but has given place to a very flourishing Grange, organized in Woodstock, February 17th, 1886, with thirty-four members. George A. Bowen was elected master; H. W. Hibbard, lecturer; L. J. Wells, secretary. The progress of "Senexet Grange" is apparently very satisfactory, though details are discreetly veiled from public view. Its master, Doctor G. A. Bowen, serves as lecturer for the State Grange, and is very prominently connected with the interests of the organization. Lewis J. Wells also serves as state secretary. A large number are connected with Senexet Grange, and its meetings are reported as exceptionally agreeable and profitable. One of Woodstock's latest agricultural achievements is a creamery near the residence of H. T. Child. This is well patronized by dairy men and women, and promises to be a profitable and labor saving institution.

A theft-detecting society was one of Woodstock's earliest co-operative experiments. Organized far back in 1793, in days of poverty and sore temptation, it doubtless served as a preventive to crime and petty pilfering. The officers of the society were president, vice-president, clerk, treasurer and six pursuers. These latter officials were furnished with means for providing themselves with good horses, with which they were expected to pursue thieves at a moment's notice. Ordinary members were only required to pay their annual dues and help eat up the good dinner provided for the society. In 1824 the society was formally incorporated, and has since maintained serene existence, the chief incident of its career the annual dinner and speech making. Another ancient institution, the Putnam Masonic Lodge, second in Windham county, has been transplanted from Pomfret to Woodstock, finding accommodations in the new Agricultural Hall building. Embracing in its past membership

many of the sterling men of the county, it still holds its own amid the multiplicity of modern organizations.

The care of public schools was early made over to the three parishes. Each parish acted as a distinct school society, building school houses, hiring teachers and managing its own educational affairs. Under this system the common schools were well sustained, and turned out an unusual supply of competent and successful teachers. It has been said that no crop in Woodstock was so sure as its school teachers. Not only has it raised a sufficient supply for its own numerous schools, but a large number has been sent out to help enlighten the ignorance of other towns. Part of this proficiency is doubtless due to the additional stimulus given by the Woodstock Academy, which has furnished means of higher instruction to successive generations. A regard for education was an early feature in Woodstock history, leading to the establishment of a flourishing high school previous to 1730.

The public schools conducted in every district were supplemented by private instruction from such able and learned men as Reverends Abel Stiles and Stephen Williams. The latter minister fitted many young men for college, numbering among his pupils such future celebrities as Abiel Holmes and Jedidiah Morse. A demand for higher educational privileges kept pace with the growth and expansion of the young republic. The curriculum of the crowded "District School house" was far too narrow for aspirants for high political office and business influence, and Woodstock forestalled other northern towns in securing the establishment of an academy. General McClellan, with his sons, Major John and James McClellan, Deacon Jedidiah Morse, General David Holmes, and other influential men, gave their countenance to the project. Reverend Eliphalet Lyman, pastor of the church at Woodstock hill, was its most active and successful advocate.

On January 12th, 1801, the proprietors of the South half of Woodstock granted liberty to set an academy building on the common north of the meeting house. Funds for building were to be secured by the gift of an hundred dollars each, from thirty-two citizens of Woodstock. Having headed the list with his own subscription, Mr. Lyman rode on horseback all over the town, and by his eloquence and persistency secured the requisite names and pledges. An efficient building committee

was appointed, who pushed forward the work with unwonted speed. Farmers offered best white oak timber at half its market value, in their eagerness to help found an academy. It was said that the boards brought would reach from Woodstock to Providence. The raising was made a day of special festivity and rejoicing, all Woodstock turning out, as well as volunteers from sister towns. "A good slice of the ample common was filled with people, ox-teams and horses." Boys, sires and grandsires assisted in the several stages of the work. Major David Holmes gallantly volunteered to be swung up on an eighty-foot timber to adjust the steeple frame. Volunteer labor cheerfully helped smooth off the ground, haul up a suitable door step from the old hearth-stone quarry, and install in the belfry a much prized bell.

Yale College was much interested in this projected institution and selected one of its most promising graduates, Thomas Williams, of Pomfret, for the first preceptor. February 4th, 1802, the new academy building was formerly opened and dedicated. "The event of establishing a seminary of learning, superior to any other which had been previously enjoyed," brought together a large and deeply interested assembly. Appropriate addresses were made by Esquire McClellan and Mr. Lyman, the exercises closing by the presentation of the key of the academy to Mr. Williams "in the name of the trustees and with the approbation of the proprietors." School opened the next day with nearly a hundred pupils. Board for pupils from other towns could be found for five shillings a week in the best families.

Incorporation was secured in the spring by act of legislature, whereby Samuel McClellan, Eliphalet Lyman, Nehemiah Child, Ebenezer Smith, William Potter, Hezekiah Bugbee, Ichabod Marcy, Jesse Bolles, David Holmes and others, were made a body corporate. Five trustees annually appointed by the proprietors were to superintend the management of affairs. Mr. Williams was succeeded in the office of preceptor by Hezekiah Frost, of Canterbury, and he by other youthful Yale graduates. The academy continued very popular, attracting many pupils from out of town. William Larned Marcy, of Sturbridge; David Young, of Killingly; Prescott and David Hall, of Pomfret, were among its early pupils, famous in later years. George McClellan, afterward the distinguished surgeon of Philadelphia, father of General George B. McClellan; Ebenezer Stoddard, future

congressional representative and lieutenant-governor of Connecticut, and many other Woodstock boys destined to win success in varying fields, enjoyed the privilege of attendance at Woodstock Academy.

The constant change of teachers was detrimental to the interests of the school. The administration of Preceptor Rinaldo Burleigh—an experienced teacher—from 1810 to 1813, was exceptionally favorable, and brought the institution to the culmination of its early prosperity. Aaron Skinner, the much-beloved mayor of New Haven; the Reverend Doctors Willard Child and Alvin Bond, the Burleigh brothers, so prominent in abolition agitation, received part of their early training in Woodstock Academy. A period of great depression occurred between 1820 and 1843, rival institutions in many towns and the lack of means, discouraging local effort. With the advent of Mr. Henry C. Bowen as a summer resident, new interest was awakened. The old academy building was thoroughly repaired and a first class teacher procured—Mr. John T. Averill. Under his stimulating influence a large number of scholars were attracted and much enthusiasm awakened. New chemical apparatus was procured, elm trees set out in front of the academy by teachers and scholars, a printed catalogue issued. After four years of continued prosperity, further advance was made under the preceptorship of Mr. James W. Patterson, assisted part of the term by Miss Edna Dean Proctor. These distinguished teachers impressed themselves strongly upon their pupils, and gave character to the school.

Competent instructors maintained its standing till about 1860, when another lapse ensued. By successful effort after a few years an endowment fund was raised and a new and capacious academy building erected at the cost of over \$20,000. Five thousand dollars was given by Mr. H. C. Bowen to each of these objects, and the remaining large amount raised by some hundred interested friends and subscribers from Woodstock and other towns. The new building was opened with appropriate exercises August 21st, 1873. Reverend Nathaniel Beach reported in behalf of the trustees. Addresses were made by Governor Buckingham, Secretary B. G. Northrup and others. Mr. Clarence W. Bowen rehearsed the history of the academy in all its varied phases. A noteworthy feature in the day's programme was the reading of a most delightful and characteristic letter

from Doctor Oliver W. Holmes, descendant of one of the original settlers of Woodstock. Thus accommodated and endowed, the academy has entered upon a new career of usefulness. While under the present graded school system fewer scholars from abroad are obliged to seek the academy, it furnishes the means of thorough education to all scholars within the town. Competent and successful teachers have been employed, and a goodly number of well trained graduates sent out into the world. Elmwood Hall furnishes convenient board for such city students as prize pure air and congenial environment. Among Woodstock's many achievements she has none more worthy of praise and gratulation than her well endowed academy.

The church on Woodstock hill remained without a stated pastor some three years after the deposition of Reverend Abel Stiles, when it harmoniously united with the society in extending a call to Mr. Abiel Leonard, of Plymouth. Faithful to the Old Dominion and Cambridge Platform, eleven Massachusetts churches were invited to carry forward the ordaining exercises, June 23d, 1763, and over ten pounds expended in "liquors, sugar and lemons." The eloquence and affability of the young minister soon won the hearts of the congregation, and old grievances were gradually overlooked and forgotten. In 1766 the rupture was so far healed that mutual concessions were interchanged between the two churches and amicable relations permanently established. Those honored brethren, Jedidiah Morse and William Skinner, were now elected deacons; a vote was passed, "That a chapter in the Bible should be read publicly every Lord's day if agreeable to the congregation, and three forward seats in the front gallery sequestered for the use of the singers." Those women, both elder and younger, that were favored with agreeable voices were desired by the society to occupy the reserved seats on the women's side. Repairs were made in the meeting house, and everything indicated renewed harmony and prosperity. Old men in later years looked back to this era as "the Golden Age" of Woodstock, when the renovated house was filled with joyful worshippers, and the pastor, with his two deacons, "the largest and finest looking men in the parish," sat together at the communion table.

War with its absolute demands turned all this joy into mourning. The beloved pastor was called away and many of the congregation. Mr. Leonard served most efficiently as chaplain of

Putnam's regiment, preaching with great acceptance on several important occasions. An autograph letter from Washington and Putnam "to the church and congregation at Woodstock," requesting that his term of service might be extended, is held as a sacred relic. The church, unable to vote consent, "in silence manifested its *resignation*." His mournful end overwhelmed his people with sorrow. Overstaying a furlough, according to tradition, on account of dangerous illness in his household, he was met on his way back to camp by a rumor of disgrace and dismissal, and in a moment of weakness took his life with his own hand. His widow and family remained in Woodstock.

After two years interim, Eliphalet Lyman, of Lebanon, was ordained as pastor, September 2d, 1779, having first given satisfaction as to his doctrinal standing. He was an able and sound preacher, and held a leading position among the clergy of his generation. In the early part of his ministry he was involved in an unpleasant controversy with Hon. Zephaniah Swift, of Windham, in consequence of his attitude toward Oliver Dodge, Pomfret's reprobate minister. The refusal of Mr. Lyman to allow Dodge the use of his pulpit called out a most vituperous castigation from the irate judge, and he was also subjected to a legal trial and damages for intrusion upon his own meeting house. The affair occasioned much excitement and ill feeling, and was widely ventilated in current newspapers. This incident may have stiffened the orthodoxy of Mr. Lyman and his church, which in 1815 joined the Windham County Consociation, and thus identified itself with Connecticut churches, after a century of spirited opposition.

In 1821 the First society entered upon the work of building a new meeting house; Captain William Lyon, General David Holmes and William K. Green, committee; Rhodes Arnold and James Lyon were commisssioned to take down the old house in a prudent manner; Jedidiah Kimball, to procure subscriptions to defray expenses of building. Four long days in June were spent in gratuitous labor upon the foundation. At seven in the morning, August 22d, 1821, the work of raising the new frame was initiated by prayer from Mr. Lyman. Free dinners and supper, and spirit at eighty-nine cents a gallon, helped incite a large attendance, so that by noon the second day the frame was successfully erected, when, "in view of the goodness of God in preserving the lives and limbs of all those who were engaged in

this perilous business," the meeting was closed by a second prayer from Mr. Lyman and a thanksgiving anthem. Though so auspiciously begun, the work was carried on with difficulty, but by July 11th, 1822, this was so far surmounted that the house was publicly dedicated. The veteran chorister, Mr. Flynn, was requested "to select such tunes as he may think proper, and with the rest of the singers learn and sing them on the day of dedication." James Lyon, Doctor Daniel Lyman, John McClellan, Esq., Spalding Barstow and Rhodes Arnold had charge of seating the large congregation. The sermon was preached by the venerable pastor. The bell had been recast by Major George Holbrook, a communion table given by Mr. Jedidiah Kimball, and the ladies of the congregation had tastefully assisted in dressing the pulpit. Two years later Mr. Lyman was dismissed from his charge at his own request.

His successor, Ralph S. Crampton, ordained May 22d, 1827, remained but little over two years, the anti-Masonic agitation hastening his departure. The vote not to receive into the church any person who was a member of the Masonic institution, was afterward rescinded. The pastorate of Reverend William M. Cornell continued three years. Reverend Otis Rockwood, installed November 20th, 1834, remained nine years. He was much interested in temperance and kindred reforms, and in 1842 received forty persons into the membership of the church. Reverend Jonathan Curtis was installed February 18th, 1846, and labored faithfully till smitten with paralysis. He was dismissed by the same council which ordained his successor, Henry M. Colton, November 18th, 1852, who after a three years' pastorate was dismissed at his own request. Reverend Lemuel Grosvenor, of Pomfret, next served as acting pastor for five years, and on Thanksgiving day, 1859, gave an interesting historical sketch of church and society. Reverends James L. Corning, J. A. Wilkins, J. W. Allen, J. W. Lyon, followed in quick succession. In 1868 Reverend Nathaniel Beach was received as acting pastor, and remained ten years in charge, greatly respected and beloved in church and county. The succeeding six years' service of Reverend F. M. E. Bachelor was also acceptable and profitable.

With such experience the church willingly returned to its primitive mode of settlement, inviting Reverend E. B. Bingham to become its pastor, and after more than thirty years lapse enjoyed the privilege of installation. Very interesting services

were held, April 14th, 1885. The sermon was given by a descendant of several old Woodstock families—Doctor George L. Walker, Hartford—and former beloved pastors participated in the services. A united, strong, aggressive church is reported as the happy result of this five years' pastorate. Spiritual and material prosperity are alike quickened. Young people join with much heartiness in wide-awake "Christian endeavor" and missionary societies.

The church edifice of 1821 has been made over and beautified. So complete a transformation has rarely been accomplished. The plain, old-fashioned meeting house, with its double row of square windows, high galleries, rectangular pews and awkward pulpit, is replaced by an æsthetic auditorium, elaborated in every detail with the best skill of modern art and taste. Eleven stained glass windows, of exquisite design and coloring, add greatly to its effectiveness and beauty, in soothing contrast with the glare of other days. Beautiful in themselves, these memorial windows transmit to succeeding generations the memory of departed worth. A window contributed by Doctor Oliver Wendell Holmes, Hon. E. H. Bugbee, and others, bears a portrait of the first white man connected with the history of Woodstock—the pioneer Indian missionary, John Eliot. One of the leading spirits in the first settlement, Lieutenant Edward Morris, is most fitly commemorated in the window given by his descendant, J. F. Morris, of Hartford. A third perpetuates the memory of the gifted and eloquent chaplain, Abiel Leonard, so beloved by his people, so prized by Washington and Putnam. Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Beach, a heroine of to-day, is another window. The daughter of an honored Woodstock pastor, a successful teacher in Woodstock Academy, appreciative pupils have thus shown their reverence for her high character and valued missionary service. The remaining memorial windows were given by Messrs. Edward E. and Henry C. Bowen, and by representatives of the well-known families of Bugbee, Carrol, Lyon, Mathewson and McClellan. The renovated church edifice was re-dedicated February 17th, 1889, with sermon by Mr. Bingham and prayer by Mr. Beach. Music from the new organ added to the interest of the occasion. The church on Woodstock hill, near the close of its second century, enters upon a new period of prosperity and usefulness.

The Second church, gathered in New Roxbury, pursued its way quietly after the settlement of Mr. Williams. Comprising at

first residents throughout the parish, its numbers were reduced by the development of Baptist principles and interests; yet the number of children baptized was very large. Mr. Williams was an able preacher and ranked well among the ministry of the day. He was also a successful teacher, receiving many young men into his family for instruction. His own sons, Stephen and Timothy, were fitted for college, together with John McClellan and other Woodstock youths. Diaries kept by Messrs. Stephen and Timothy Williams give a vivid picture of colonial and college life. The Williams homestead, with its inmates, comes freshly before us. We see the busy pastor studying, writing, visiting the sick, attending numerous funerals, catechizing the children in various schools, and entertaining the increasing flow of company with patriarchal hospitality. The young men study and read, help about farm work, install the great logs upon the hearthstone, and bring reports from the busy world about them. With them we participate in installation and training days, funerals and frolics, school exhibition and college commencement, and gather all the news and gossip of neighborhood and towns adjoining. How vital the question of the new mode of singing, just introduced into West Woodstock church! Our young men favor regular singing and set tunes, and record with reprehension the conduct of those church fathers who stalk out of the meeting house when "Virginia" is sung, or other obnoxious tunes attempted. In 1782 it was voted "That the singing be carried on by reading the portion line by line till the last singing of the afternoon, and then a whole verse to be read at a time." Six choristers were appointed to lead in this exercise. This proving unsatisfactory, "that they may all rest easy," after large debate it was decided "That the deacon read the portion line by line in the forenoon, and in the afternoon a verse at a time, except the double-verse tunes, and them to be sung through without reading."

The meeting house soon after this date was thoroughly repaired, fitted up with pews, and painted in fashionable stone color, the roof a Spanish brown. Mr. Williams remained in charge till advanced age, sustaining through life a very amiable and worthy character. His son Stephen was cordially invited to the vacant pastorate, but thought best to decline. The place was filled by another resident of the parish, Alvan Underwood, a graduate of Brown University, ordained and installed May 27th,

1801. John Fox, Elias Child, 2d, and Philip Howard served as society committee; John Austin, Parker Morse and John Paine as special committee, "to attend on and see to seating people, and to keeping order and regularity in the assembly of spectators." The pastorate thus inaugurated was peaceful and prosperous. Mr. Underwood was of an especially genial and sympathetic nature, beloved by old and young. The church singing was carried on successfully and harmoniously, Mr. Jathniel Perrin, a famous singing master, taking the place of the former six choristers. The new bass-viol introduced during this period was cared for and kept in order by Benjamin Lyon, 3d, Abiel Fox and Abraham Paine.

In 1821 a new meeting house was completed. Darius Barlow, John Fox, Abram W. Paine, Elias Child, 2d, Benjamin Lyon, 2d, successfully circulated subscriptions for necessary funds. A year's salary for that purpose was relinquished by Mr. Underwood. Ebenezer Skinner, Benjamin E. Palmer and William Lyon were deputed "to stick the corner stakes for the foundation," and within two years the work was accomplished. Several revivals were enjoyed and valued accessions made to the church during Mr. Underwood's ministry, and its first Sabbath school was successfully established. Thomas Child, Edmund Chamberlain, Ebenezer Corbin, Timothy Perrin, Shubael Child, Gideon Shaw, Henry Bowen, Stephen Johnson, Albe Abbot, Jacob Lyon, Alexander Dorrance and Laban Underwood had then served the church in the office of deacon. March 30th, 1833, Mr. Underwood was dismissed from his office, and engaged mainly in evangelistic labor, returning to West Woodstock in the closing years of his life.

John D. Baldwin in 1834 entered upon three years service. During his ministry a new confession of faith and church covenant were prepared and adopted, and pains taken to collect and preserve the church records. Reverend Benjamin Ober was installed pastor December 4th, 1839. The revival of 1841-2 brought thirty-eight persons into the church. Ill health soon compelled Mr. Ober to resign his office. Reverend E. F. Brooks served from 1846 to 1849. Reverend Joseph W. Sessions was installed March 27th, 1854, and continued ten years in service. About seventy were added to the church during the great revival season of 1857-58, adding much to its strength and vitality. Equally fruitful was the ministry of his successor, Reverend

Henry F. Hyde, whose praise is still vocal in other Windham county churches. During his three years' ministry in West Woodstock the Sabbath school was much increased and many families added to the congregation.

Other faithful ministers have followed as stated supplies, the latest but the present, Reverend John P. Trowbridge, preparing an interesting historical discourse, delivered in his own church September 29th, 1886, in commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of the settlement of the town. Reverend John Avery, one of the former pastors of the church, assisted in the service. Ancient hymns were sung under the leadership of Mr. Luther Fox, and many aged members of the church enjoyed the privileges of the occasion. Though from unfavorable circumstances, the church in West Woodstock has lapsed from its early prominence and standing, it has sent out into the world many faithful men and women, and fulfilled in good measure the designs and hopes of its founders.

A Baptist church was organized in New Roxbury parish in 1766. A Baptist element had previously existed, and a Six Principle Baptist church had been formed and disbanded. Fresh interest in Baptist principles was aroused by the preaching of Reverend Noah Alden, a popular Baptist minister, which led to the conversion of young Biel Ledoyt, a former leader in merry-making and frolic. Young friends attempting to ridicule and argue with him were themselves convicted and converted, and many young people became subjects of a powerful work of grace. "Parents were amazed to see their giddy children distressed for their souls." Frolic and dance were given up, the Bible and good books read eagerly, meetings for prayer and exhortation greatly frequented. The standing church of West Woodstock, always noted for formality and somewhat rigid orthodoxy, looked with some suspicion upon these irregular and enthusiastic demonstrations. A church fast was proclaimed, and several sound divines invited to advise in this emergency, who, with marvelous lack of wisdom, "fell to reading about false spirits, and Satan transforming himself into an angel of light," insinuating that the late powerful work was a delusion, and "the first instruments of their awakening" the deceivers which should come in at the last time.

No wonder that these young converts turned to the church which offered them comfort and liberty, and separating from the

church of their fathers, agreed to meet together as a society, improving the gifts which God had given them. At the first favorable opportunity a number were baptized by immersion, and in February, 1766, a church of sixteen members was constituted, under the guidance of three ordained Baptist members. Increasing rapidly in numbers, May 26th, 1768, Biel Ledoyt was ordained as its pastor.

As the First Baptist church in a large section of country it held a commanding position, and was early connected with the Warren Association, of Rhode Island. Opposition from the standing church increased its influence and popularity with the masses. While a majority of the West Woodstock church was disposed to admit the claims of this Baptist church and release its members from taxation, a minority stoutly denied the validity of their organization, and protested against "freeing the Anabaptist people in this society from paying minister's rates amongst us." After much discussion and wrangling the matter was referred to the wise judgment of Jonathan Trumbull, who showed with much clearness, "that the Baptist churches in this Colony are no otherwise known in law than that church of Baptists in your society is, that those people having formed themselves into a Baptist church and society . . . are excused from paying any part in your society tax for the support of your minister."

This matter settled, the church continued to gain in numbers. A rough meeting house was soon built and well filled with hearers. With some peculiarities of character and expression, Elder Ledoyt was an able preacher. Timothy Williams attending a chance service in 1788, reports, "a thronged assembly; First prayer, seven or eight minutes; sermon, Eph. III: 8, one hour in length; last prayer, ten minutes." Serious difficulties soon after ensued, scattering the large congregation and dividing the church. Various councils failing to heal the breach, Elder Ledoyt withdrew to Newport, N. H., "leaving his flock in a very broken and divided condition." Members were added through the labors of Samuel Webster, a colored evangelist. January 19th, 1799, Brother Robert Stanton was ordained as pastor over the First Baptist church in Woodstock, "as long as they are profitable to each other." During his ministry some fifty were added to the church, and a new church edifice constructed.

Difficulties marring the profitableness of Mr. Stanton's ministry, he was succeeded by Elder Ledoyt in 1806, who found a door opened by God's Providence, "whereby he must return and labor with the church of his youth." Malignant disease ended life and faithful service, March 24th, 1813. He was succeeded by Elder Nicholas Branch, long known and honored in the ministry, but then a youth just entering ministerial service. "Peace, love, union and prosperity" were enjoyed during his six years' ministry. In succeeding brief pastorates a remarkable revival was experienced, adding sixty to the church. Uniting in the Ashford Association, formed in 1825, it reported 110 members, 45 baptisms during the year. The faithful labors of Elder George B. Atwell extended over nine years, and were greatly blessed to the growth and spirituality of the church. His successors, Elders Nathan D. Benedict and Bela Hicks, were faithful and successful pastors.

The great revival season of 1841-42, brought the membership of the church to nearly two hundred. Reverends Isaac Woodbury, Henry Bromley, Edward Brown, Thomas Holman and John Paine officiated as pastors in varying terms of service. Reverend Leavitt Wakeman served from 1855 to 1858, when Elder Branch again assumed the charge. Reverend W. A. Worthington followed in 1861, and was succeeded in 1865 by Reverend J. Torrey Smith. The hundredth anniversary of the organization of the church was observed in November, 1866, when a valuable historic discourse was delivered by the pastor. Former pastors assisted in the service in person or by appropriate letters. In 1869 the meeting house was thoroughly repaired and renovated, the sisters of the church giving much effective aid. Reverend Sylvester Barrows served as pastor from 1869 to 1874. A new parsonage was built by the society during his pastorate. Reverend Samuel J. Bronson became pastor in 1875, and died in charge in 1879. His successor, Reverend William H. Smith, remained in service six years.

Loss of population has told heavily upon this as on other churches in West Woodstock, so that its present membership is much reduced. Four of its members have been licensed to go forth as preachers, viz., Miner G. Clark, John B. Guild, Hugh Dempsey, Percival Mathewson. A beloved sister of the church, Calista Holman, the wife of Reverend Justus H. Vinton, has accomplished most valued missionary work among the Karens.

Her son, Justus B. Vinton, while laboring in the same distant field, maintained his connection with the West Woodstock Baptist church. Many other members have gone out to help build up and strengthen other churches throughout our own country. The list of deacons serving the church comprises many honored names, viz., Nehemiah Underwood, John Morse, David Bolles, Samuel Crawford, Sr., Aaron Gage, Penuel Corbin, Sr. and Jr., Luther Tucker, Charles Mathewson, Samuel Crawford, Jr., Halsey Leonard, Joseph E. Dean, Shubael Day, Francis L. Corbin.

Woodstock's Second Baptist church was gathered at what was known as Quasset, June 29th, 1792. The council was held at the spacious old Bolles House, occupied by Jesse Bolles, tanner and shoemaker, a prominent Baptist. Thirty-five members united in fellowship. Amos Wells of Stonington, was ordained pastor August 9th the same year. Jesse Bolles and Robert Baxter were chosen deacons. A convenient house of worship was soon erected on land given by Deacon Bolles. The Stonington Association met with this church in 1795, and found a membership of 76. Deacons Baxter and Bolles, Brothers James, Jeremiah and Childs Wheaton, Charles Chandler, Robert Aplin, Artemas Bruce and Thomas Bugbee, were chosen a committee to aid in settling difficulties between the members in 1802. William H. Manning was chosen deacon upon the removal of Deacon Bolles; Childs Wheaton succeeded Deacon Baxter. Elder Wells was retained as pastor till 1811, a man of power and public influence, especially in relation to the ecclesiastic constitution of Connecticut. When, by vote of the town, Baptists and Methodists were allowed to preach to the freemen on election day, Elder Wells chose for his text Paul's assertion, "But I was free born," and his stirring sermon was published and widely circulated.

His successor, Reverend George Angell, was a man of lovely Christian spirit. James Wheaton, Thomas Bugbee, William Manning, John Sanger are names honored in the history of this Woodstock Second Baptist church. Deacon Sanger received liberty to preach as he had opportunity, and his fervent exhortations are still remembered. The prevalence of Millerite sentiments greatly reduced the membership of the church, but its prosperity returned with its removal to South Woodstock, where a new church edifice was erected in 1844, upon land granted by the town. The venerable John Paine then served as pastor. Many other faithful men have served in its ministry. Elder John

Paine, honored in many Baptist churches, officiated at the time of the removal to South Woodstock. The late Reverend Percival Mathewson, born and reared in Woodstock, spent his closing years with this church.

The church of East Woodstock, or Muddy Brook, as it was formerly called, assumed local habitation in that precinct early in 1760, taking with it minister, records, church utensils, indicative of previous existence. There is no evidence of any reorganization at that date. An established church or body of believers simply changed its place of worship. An ecclesiastic society, known as the Third or North parish of Woodstock, was organized October 30th, 1760, Nathaniel Child, Nehemiah Lyon, Caleb May, committee. It was voted, November 24th, "To build a meeting house of the same bigness as that admired edifice in the first society." The choice of site occasioned some delay, during which interval the church held services in the dwelling house of Benjamin Child, Jr., still standing near the residence of Mr. N. E. Morse. Successive committees agreed in fixing the meeting house spot on land given by Nathaniel Child, east of the brook, but there were those who preferred a more westward site, and transmitted their preference to their descendants. Nathaniel Child, Esq., Lieutenant Ephraim Child, Ensign Stephen May, Stephen Lyon, Ezra May, served as building committee.

The house was so far completed as to be ready for occupation August 8th, 1762. Pew spots were granted to Reverend Abel Stiles, Madam Urania Lyon (widow of Captain Jabez Lyon, a prominent resident then recently deceased), Stephen Lyon, Deacon Daniel Lyon, Nathaniel Child, Esq., Captain Nehemiah Lyon, Benjamin Wilkinson, Henry Child, Elisha Child, Deacon John May, Caleb May, Thomas May, Ephraim Child, Job Revere, Stephen May, Joshua May, Samuel Chandler, Benjamin Child, Jr., Josiah Sumner, Samuel Corbin, Jesse Carpenter, Alexander Brown, Moses Marcy and Seth Chandler. Four pews in the rear were added afterward. The house was large and abundantly lighted, and seated a large congregation.

Mr. Stiles completed a new dwelling house nearly opposite in 1763, and enjoyed a peaceful anchorage after his many trials. Substantial residents in adjacent parts of New Roxbury and Thompson parishes were annexed to the society. Land for a burial ground was purchased of Elisha Child, and Nathaniel Child was chosen to care for the meeting house and dig the graves.

Singing received immediate attention, Nathaniel Child and Caleb May being selected "to tune the Psalms of this society." Joseph Manning and Increase Child were soon called to render assistance in that office. In 1774 Asa Child, Samuel Corbin, Jr., and Chester Child were requested to assist in tuning the psalm. As early as 1780 money was paid for "instruction in singing," probably to Jedidiah Morse, Jr., a proficient in that line. Opposition to new tunes was manifested, as in West Woodstock, by the withdrawal of offended hearers, Deacon Nehemiah Lyon marching gravely out when St. Martyn's was sung.

Mr. Stiles remained in charge till 1783, though in great bodily infirmity, "his soul wading in clouds and temptations." Impressive funeral services are reported in the diary of Stephen Williams: "A crowded assembly of above a thousand persons, the remains of Rev. Abel Stiles being placed in the broad alley, Mr. Gleason made first prayer; Dadda preached (Rev. Stephen Williams); Mr. Ripley in behalf of the mourners made a short but comprehensive and pertinent speech at the grave after Mr. Russel had closed with prayer." Reverend Joshua Johnson, previously ordained as colleague, continued in charge till 1790. Mr. Stephen Williams, as delegate, reports the ordination of his successor, Reverend William Graves, August 31st, 1791. After preliminary grog drinking at Nehemiah Child's, "the council marched into the meeting house followed by the multitude, a thousand of whom filled the house, and perhaps five hundred without. Rev. Josiah Whitney as scribe read the doings of council. Woodstock was sung before the prayer, then Montague. Joseph Lyman gave a solid old divinity sermon from John 21, 17, forty-five minutes; addressed only pastor elect and society. Mr. Whitney with imposition of hands made ordaining prayer, ten minutes. Rev. Stephen Williams gave the charge, eight minutes, Eliphalet Lyman with considerable pathos the right hand of fellowship. Rev. Mr. Graves read psalm, well sung—Lisbon—and dismissed people a little after one; attention and decent solemnity remarkable; no opposition appears though a number profess neutrality. By Mr. Graves' request drank punch, cherry, and wine, and dined well with the council at Mr. Thomas May's, who entertains gratis. Rode with Mr. Mosely of Sturbridge or Hampton, theologian, towards night, to Bowen's, and spent the evening in festivity with ladies and gentlemen from Woodstock, Pomfret, Brooklyn, Thompson,

Sturbridge; cost 5/4. Saw most of them away, but the darkness prevented finding all the horses. . . . called next day on Mr. Graves; drank wine and had a water-melon feast."

This festive ordination inaugurated a very serious and profitable pastorate. Mr. Graves was an earnest and devoted Christian laborer, greatly esteemed by his own people and brethren in the ministry. A fund had now been raised for the maintenance of public worship, and those who did not approve of the legal minister's rates were released upon easy terms. Collections were taken for the Connecticut Missionary Society, and four months absence was granted Mr. Graves to go on a mission among the new settlements. Church music was aided by a grand bass-viol, manipulated by Pearley Lyon and Chester May, and the singing school kept by William Flynn for one dollar per evening. Nehemiah Child had succeeded to the office of gravedigger. Alfred Walker, Amasa Lyon, Rensselaer Child, John Paine and Stephen Child were chosen in 1814 to act as superintendents of funerals.

Reverend Mr. Graves died in 1813, and was succeeded by Samuel Backus, of Canterbury, ordained January 19th, 1815. A very remarkable revival was soon experienced by the church, adding some two hundred within two years to its membership. Mr. Backus was pre-eminently a man of faith and prayer, and though moderate in discourse, made deep impression upon the heart. He organized a Bible class of seventy-five members, of whom fifty-nine came into the church at one communion. A very effective Sabbath school was begun in 1818. The deacons up to this date had been Caleb May, Nehemiah Lyon, Elisha Child, Charles Child, Aaron Lyon, Nathaniel Briggs. William Child was chosen in 1819; Luther Child in 1824. Additional funeral superintendents were Oliver Morse, Alduce Penniman, Ezra Child, William Child, Penuel May and John Fowler.

Contentions respecting the site of a projected meeting house troubled the closing years of Mr. Backus' ministry, leading to the disruption of society and church, and the erection of two church edifices. A majority of the society favoring the house built at Village Corners, the eastward residents organized as a distinct society December 26th, 1831. Their meeting house was already in progress, John Paine, Judah and Pearley Lyon, committee. The site was given by Messrs. Nehemiah and William Child. William Child, Chester May, Charles Child, Jr., James

Lamson, Oliver Morse, William and Abiel May, Caleb, Erastus and Stephen Child and Elias Mason, 2d, were added to the committee. April 25th, 1832, the house was formally dedicated, and Reverend Orson Cowles ordained as pastor. W. M. Cornell had supplied the pulpit in the interim after the dismissal of Mr. Backus. During Mr. Cowles' five years' ministry remarkable revivals were enjoyed, bringing many converts into the depleted church. Mr. Boutelle's ministry (1837-1849) was marked by a great advance in benevolent contributions. Reverends James A. Clark, Michael Burdette and J. A. Roberts served for short periods.

Next followed the pastorate of Reverend Edward H. Pratt, extending from 1855 to April, 1867, so abounding in all good influences. Faithful in every detail of duty, interested in everything relating to the well being of individual or community, the promotion of temperance principles and practice was the crowning interest of Mr. Pratt's useful life. His influence, especially upon the young men of his own congregation and the children of the Sabbath school, was most vital and permanent, and has greatly strengthened the temperance standing of the town. Called to active service as the secretary of the Connecticut Temperance Union, his aid and counsel were ever given freely to town and church till his lamented death. Succeeding his ministry were the short terms of Reverends Francis Dyer, W. A. Benedict, C. A. Stone, W. H. Phipps and J. A. Hanna, extending to 1875, when the two North Woodstock parishes again united in service, each occupying its own church edifice part of the Sabbath.

The East Woodstock house has been thoroughly renovated and improved, and the singing, under Messrs. Harris May and William Child, maintains its ancient reputation. The deacon's office since 1832 has been filled by Elisha C. Walker, T. B. Chandler, Asa Lyon, Halsey Bixby, George A. Paine, Monroe W. Ide, John Paine, Edwin R. Chamberlain. Willard Child, D. D., Albert Paine and Charles Walker, D. D., have gone out from it into the ministry. The son of Doctor Walker, George L. Walker, D. D., is the well known pastor of Centre church, Hartford, Conn.

The Northward wing of the East Woodstock church took possession of its new house of worship February 10th, 1831. Its first pastor was Reverend Foster Thayer, ordained and installed the following June. During his five years' labor forty were ad-

ded to the church. His successor, Reverend L. S. Hough, continued in charge four years. Reverends Willard Child and D. C. Frost officiated until the installation of William H. Marsh November 30th, 1844, who accomplished nearly seven years' service. O. D. Hine, D. M. Elwood and John White followed in quick succession. Reverend T. H. Brown, a young man of much promise, was removed by death after a pastorate of two years. Reverend J. W. Kingsbury, installed in 1869, dismissed in 1871, was the last pastor settled by the church. Reverend W. A. James, of Killingly, served as acting pastor for four years, during which time the church edifice was destroyed by fire. Subscriptions were immediately circulated and a sufficient sum raised to repair the loss. Children of former members and generous friends helped in fitting up the new building, which was completed and dedicated in the fall of 1873. After the removal of Mr. James in 1875, the North and East churches united in support of a minister. Reverends C. N. Cate, T. M. Boss, John Parsons and C. W. Thompson, have served successively as pastors of the two societies. The present incumbent is Reverend F. H. Viets.

In its comparatively brief term of separate existence this church has had the good fortune to send out honored ministers and missionaries. Three sons of Captain John Chandler, of North Woodstock, have accomplished valuable service. Reverend John E. Chandler was sent by the American Board as missionary to India in 1846, and still labors in Madura over an extensive field. His son, Reverend John S. Chandler, and his two daughters, Henrietta and Gertrude, have also devoted themselves to mission work in Madura. Reverend Joseph Chandler served in the war as delegate from the Christian Commission, and also in Home Mission work. The third brother, Reverend Augustus Chandler, debarred from missionary work in India by delicate health, labored usefully as evangelist and stated pastor.

Methodism was introduced in West Woodstock in 1795 by that active itinerant, Jesse Lee. A class was formed at an early day and a few Methodists joined in social worship, but no substantial footing was gained until the revivals of 1829-30, when through the preaching of Elders Lovejoy, Bidwell and Robbins, many converts were gathered in and added to the class. A Methodist house of worship was built in West Woodstock and stated services instituted. Ebenezer and Elisha Paine, Thomas

Chandler, Charles Child, Benjamin Works, and a worthy band of Christian women, were active in this church. Connected successively with Dudley, Thompson and Eastford circuits, it enjoyed the ministrations of many faithful, zealous, self denying Methodist preachers—Elders Livesy, Ireson, Allen, Carter, Davis, Perrin, Pratt, names honored in wide circuits. In connection with the labors of Reverend Charles C. Barnes in 1841, an extensive revival prevailed, bringing in the whole neighborhood in the vicinity of the church. Reverend John Howson was sent by the conference in 1843 as the first stated preacher in the Methodist society, and aided much in confirming and strengthening the members. Two faithful ministers went out from the church at this date, Elders Charles Morse and Mellen Howard. Elder Morse afterward labored in adjoining towns and died a few years since greatly respected by all.

Methodist conference meetings were often held in East Woodstock village, especially in the house of Mrs. Stanley, a zealous Methodist sister, whose children were working in the factory. In 1828 a class of forty-five members was formed in the village—John Chaffee, leader; Elders H. Perry and G. Southerland, circuit preachers. Having no stated place of worship an earnest brother, Nathaniel Jones, built an addition to his house for this purpose, where many fervent meetings were enjoyed, under the guidance of some of the shining lights of Methodism. The hall of the new school house was afterward occupied by the Methodists for day-time Sabbath services. In 1847 East Woodstock was made a station, Benjamin M. Walker, preacher. Through the efficient agency of Elder Daniel Dorchester, preacher in 1851-52, the church edifice in West Woodstock was purchased, and removed to East Woodstock village. A comfortable house of worship and overflowing congregation was the happy result of his labors, greatly benefiting succeeding ministers. Elders J. D. King, Caleb S. Sandford, J. E. Heald, Culver, Boynton, S. A. Winsor, W. A. Simmons, Horace Moulton, Daniel Pratt, Mellen Howard, O. E. Thayer, L. D. Bentley, Pack, Case, Latham, Turkington, G. R. Bentley and A. H. Bennett have successively served in ministering to the East Woodstock Methodist church. One faithful minister, Reverend E. S. Stanley, has gone out from it to fulfill much useful service.

In 1854 Methodists in West Woodstock completed a new house of worship, stimulated by the presence and aid of Reverend Otis

Perrin; Luther Arnold, Lewis and Jared Corbin, Elisha Paine, William Myers, Benjamin Chandler, and other residents assisting in the work. Miss Mary Myers went out to Africa, in 1885, to aid in the missionary enterprise inaugurated by Bishop William Taylor. Marrying on the voyage another consecrated worker, they entered upon the field with much hopefulness, only to meet the fate of so many missionaries in that deadly climate. A son of Mr. Myers followed his sister in the same work. The church in West Woodstock is mainly supplied by resident local preachers, Elders Perrin, Goodell and Pratt, with S. B. Chase, having had it in charge. Some forty-two families in the town are connected with these two Methodist societies.

Universalists appeared in Woodstock toward the close of the last century, uniting with the church of Oxford. These families, with their descendants, remained apart from the standing churches of the town, attending services in other localities. A Universalist society was organized in West Woodstock in 1839, Ebenezer Philips, clerk; Adolphus Alton, treasurer; Charles Wood, George Sumner, John G. Marcy, John Fox, 2d, John Weaver, committee. Reverend Zephaniah Baker was hired as preacher. In 1842 Sanford Marcy and Luther Fox were chosen choristers; L. M. Bradford, Pitt Sharpe, Sanford Bosworth, G. Sumner, A. Alton, building committee. A house of worship was completed the following year. F. M. Fox was chosen to take care of the house and seat the people. It was voted to have the slips free. Reverend Holmes Slade was retained as preacher for a number of years. In 1859 thirty-three persons were enrolled members of this society. Zephaniah Baker, its first minister, returned to the charge in 1876. Weakened by deaths and removals, the society gradually lost ground, and its meetings were discontinued.

In 1874 an Advent Christian church was formed in West Woodstock, with fifty-six constituent members, and Reverend P. S. Butler as pastor. An Advent chapel was built in Woodstock Valley in 1879, and dedicated November 25th. A considerable number of persons, in different parts of the towns, have embraced Advent principles, and maintain religious services. An Advent chapel was also built in East Woodstock, in 1879, on land of Mr. Nathaniel Child. Reverends P. S. Butler and E. S. Bugbee have charge of these churches and services.

Religious services are conducted in behalf of the Swedes, in Agricultural Hall, and a Swedish church has been organized.

Woodstock's first post office was opened in Bowen's store in 1811, George Bowen, postmaster. Six offices are now needed, one for each separate village, viz., Woodstock, East, West, North, South Woodstock and Woodstock Valley. Convenient mail carriages convey the mail from Putnam depot to these several stations. These villages, dating back many years, enjoy varying degrees of prosperity. Some have lost by business changes and emigration; others gained by new interests. The summer element has brought new prosperity to Woodstock hill. The erection of "Roseland Cottage," by Mr. H. C. Bowen, was soon followed by the opening of Elmwood Hall, in 1862, by Messrs. Warner & Way, with ample accommodations for the "summer boarder," with his numerous household. The revivifying of the academy, and various improvements instituted by Mr. Bowen, have wrought a marvelous change in the "Plaine Hill village." Graded streets, concrete walks, tasteful dwelling houses, a shaded park and spacious common make the village one of the loveliest in Windham county, while the pure air and range of beautiful scenery are wholly unsurpassed. Summer visitors returning year after year to this favorite resort, testify to its attractions. Elmwood Hall, under the charge of its veteran proprietor—Deacon Amasa Chandler—has long been numbered among public institutions, and has been the scene of many an official and family re-union. West Woodstock village has its own especial votaries, who find perpetual charms in its verdant placidity and wide outlook, and it is becoming more and more a favorite summer resting place. The summer element is conspicuous in many new and elegant country seats in various parts of the town. Senexet road, running east of the lake, is especially favored by these summer sojourners, and boasts many of these fanciful structures. These new citizens, connected in many cases with old families of the town, promise to be an important factor in its future development.

Among modern institutions of Woodstock none has brought it into such prominence before the world as the Fourth of July celebrations inaugurated in Roseland Park by Mr. H. C. Bowen. Repeating the experience of its historic namesake, Woodstock hill has ever been celebrated for the number and variety of its notable meetings. Its trainings, funerals, belligerent town and

society meetings, its Masonic and anti-Masonic conventions, its temperance jubilees and Sabbath school celebrations, have been noted for successive generations. With the grand "Fremont Rally" of 1856 began a series of most notable political gatherings. The great Lincoln mass meeting of 1864, the great Grant mass meeting of 1868, both held on Woodstock Common, were most remarkable occasions, not only in numbers, interest and enthusiasm, but as helping to decide conflicting and vital questions.

The Fourth of July celebration in 1870 was made memorable by the presence of the president of the United States, General Grant, and his suite, with the Russian minister and other notables. Arrangements for this occasion were wholly due to Mr. H. C. Bowen, who had the honor of receiving and entertaining the distinguished guests. Securing soon after this date the beautiful grove adjoining Woodstock lake, Mr. Bowen began the laying out of the beautiful park so famous in later celebrations. July 4th, 1877, Roseland Park was formally opened with appropriate exercises. Addresses were made by Senator Blaine, ex-Governor Chamberlain, and other distinguished persons. A delightful historic poem, with appropriate patriotic prelude, was read by Doctor Oliver Wendell Holmes. Year after year these gatherings have been repeated. As the park has put on new beauty and verdure, so the programme has offered more varied attractions, until the Fourth of July celebrations at Roseland Park are known throughout the country. It would be impossible to give a full list of those who have contributed to the interest of these occasions. National celebrities in innumerable departments, presidents, cabinet officers, senators, governors, statesmen, financiers, distinguished professors and teachers, orators, lecturers, poets, literary men and women, clergymen without number, representative men and women, have appeared upon the platform at Roseland Park and discoursed upon questions of vital interest and importance. Woodstock and neighboring towns are greatly indebted to Mr. Bowen for the privilege of seeing and hearing these distinguished persons, and also for providing so delightful a spot for social and public gatherings. Saturday afternoon concerts, "Field Days" for various institutions, "Union Sabbath School picnics," family and village gatherings, have come into existence with the park, and social intercourse and healthful recreation have been greatly promoted. No bet-

ter test of progress could be cited than the substitution of such improving and elevating assemblages in this tasteful retreat, for the uproarious "training" and stilted "celebration" of other days.

Among later "Notable meetings" in Roseland Park, the republican mass meeting of September 5th, 1888, takes a high place. A county political meeting, it excited unusual interest. Pomfret, Putnam and Thompson displayed much energy in marshalling processions worthy of the occasion. The day was all that could be desired, the attendance large and the speaking excellent. Mr. Searls, of Thompson, served as chairman of the day. Hon. William M. Evarts and Mrs. J. Ellen Foster perhaps carried off the highest laurels, although all the addresses called out much enthusiasm and applause. A notable feature in the day's demonstration was the large number of veterans, eager to show their allegiance to the soldier candidate, and the presence of a veteran who assisted in the nomination of William Henry Harrison in 1840.

The anticipated visit of President Benjamin Harrison, July 4th, 1889, aroused great interest among all classes. The county appreciated as never before the distinguishing honor and privilege of receiving within her borders the highest officials of the great republic. Extensive preparations were made by Putnam and other towns for their suitable reception. All eyes and hearts were turned toward Woodstock and Roseland Park, and had the day been favorable it would probably have recorded the largest gathering ever assembled in Windham county. But rain and storm are no respecters of persons, and the lowering clouds refused to melt away. Yet, though thousands were disappointed, other thousands pluckily withstood the elements. Through the rain and heavy fog of Wednesday evening hundreds found their way to Mr. Bowen's hospitable residence, opened as usual for the reception preceding the great day. Such crowds came to see and speak to the president and his suite that one marveled where space could have been found for them had the skies been fair.

The wet July morn failed to dampen the resolution of veterans and patriots. Grand Army men in their shining new uniforms, were ready to escort the president and party to the park. The multitudes already assembled far exceeded public expectation. The address of welcome was made by Hon. Charles Russel, M. C.; prayer by Reverend E. B. Bingham; the "Day

we Celebrate" was lauded by the governor of Connecticut, Morgan G. Bulkeley, who introduced President Harrison. His graceful greeting called forth storms of applause. He was followed by General Hawley, Associate Justice Samuel F. Miller and Hon. Thomas B. Reed, M. C., of Maine. Brief addresses were also made by Secretaries Noble and Tracy. An hour's recess was passed in agreeable conversation and collation, the hundreds of veterans present being especially cared for by a generous friend, who took pains to present the president personally to each war-worn soldier. The exercises were renewed by the introduction of President Gates, of Rutgers College, when the storm, as if indignant at such defiance of its power, broke out with renewed violence. In spite of the floods of rain, the good-natured audience continued to greet and applaud the speakers and catch what was possible of the stirring addresses of Messrs. Gates and Hiscock and the sparkling poem of Will Carlton. The greatest good humor prevailed throughout the whole exercises, and all separated with the agreeable consciousness that even the "floods of great waters" could not quench patriotic enthusiasm nor seriously mar a Woodstock Fourth of July celebration.

The bi-centennial commemoration of Woodstock's settlement, the first to be observed in Windham county, was also a very notable event in its history. Preparations were going forward for some months throughout the town. An efficient committee appointed by the town—Henry T. Child, chairman—labored zealously in planning and perfecting arrangements. The change from Old to New Style brought the anniversary within the first week of September, 1886. Initiatory services were held at Pulpit Rock, Sunday morning, September 5th, attended by nearly two thousand people. After invocation, responsive reading, prayer, singing of anthem and psalm by the church choirs of the town under direction of Professor Carlo May, a greeting was given by Hon. E. H. Bugbee, followed by a sermon from Reverend John S. Chandler, Madura, India.

Monday was a day of gathering from far and near, sons and daughters of old Woodstock families returning to the old homesteads and participating in many a family reunion. In the afternoon an exhibition of antiques was held in the hall over the store, comprising many articles of rarity and value. Many of these relics had the additional interest of association with his-

toric characters. The pocket book of "grandmother Edmonds," a lace cap worn by Deacon Jedidiah Morse when an infant, a cane belonging to the last of the Wabbaquassets, were among these treasured heirlooms. The collection of portraits was very full and interesting.

The great day of the feast was Tuesday, the two hundredth anniversary of the day on which Woodstock's home lots were distributed. Memorial trees were set out in the morning on historic sites. Before 10 A. M. a large assemblage had gathered in Roseland Park. Mr. H. T. Child introduced the president of the day, Hon. J. F. Morris, Hartford, whose brief address was followed by prayer offered by Reverend J. P. Trowbridge, West Woodstock. Doctor G. A. Bowen made the address of welcome. A large number of honored citizens and returned emigrants were elected vice-presidents. An interesting historical address was given by Mr. Clarence W. Bowen, and a graphic poem read by Mr. John E. Bowen. Histories of the several churches in the town were read by Messrs. Albert McC. Mathewson, Nathan E. Morse, Reverends Luther G. Tucker and A. H. Bennett, while others prepared for the occasion were unavoidably omitted. Brethren C. H. May, G. A. Bowen and L. J. Wells, brought tidings of ancient institutions and modern organizations.

Formal services were varied by old-time singing, under charge of Mr. May, the planting of memorial trees sent with greetings from old Roxbury, public and family collations, and with interesting and humorous reminiscences in short addresses at the close. The only drawback to the day's enjoyment was the lack of time for all that might have been brought forward. The large attendance, the number of descendants from former residents, the sympathetic attention of the hearers, showed the deep interest awakened by this bi-centennial commemoration.

While Connecticut is famous for the wide dispersion of its sons and daughters, Woodstock has even exceeded the ordinary limit. Beginning soon after her own settlement to populate the towns around her, the outflow has been perennial. Vermont, New Hampshire, Central New York, the vast prairies of the West, indeed all parts of the great nation, have received emigrants from this old town. The valuable Chandler and Child genealogies show the wide dispersion of those families and the prominent part they have had in building up flourishing communities. Other families might show an equally suggestive



Ebenezer Bishop

record. It is impossible to make even an approximate estimate of those who have gone out from this historic town, or to fitly chronicle those who have made themselves memorable. General William Eaton, the conqueror of Tripoli, was born in the southwest corner of Woodstock. Commodore Charles Morris, so distinguished in naval service, was also born in West Woodstock. The Morse's, with their telegraphs and varied achievements; the Holmes's, whom even Boston delighteth to honor, date back to Woodstock ancestry. The same good stock has given to the world representative Marcys, McClellans, Mathewsons, Childs, Lyons, Chandlers, Mays, Bowens, Walkers, Skinners, Paines, Williams's, and many other honored names. Fitted for various walks in life, in every sphere of avocation and achievement, may be found the sons and daughters of Woodstock. The subjoined biographical sketches are but a tithe in comparison with the great number that might have been included.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

EBENEZER BISHOP.—The grandfather of the subject of this biography was Ebenezer Bishop, a native of Lisbon, Conn., who removed in later life to North Woodstock, where he engaged in the practice of medicine until his death in October, 1834. He married Sarah Lyon, whose six children were: Amasa, Hezekiah, Elisha, Ebenezer, Tabitha and Delia. Hezekiah, of this number, was born December 2d, 1804, in North Woodstock, where he engaged in farming and participated actively in the affairs of the town until his death, which occurred in 1863. He married Martha D., daughter of Captain Judah Lyon, a citizen of much prominence in his day. The children of this union were: Sarah L., Ebenezer, Anna M. and Esther E.

Ebenezer, the only son, was born February 19th, 1841, in North Woodstock, where his early years were mainly spent. He became a pupil of the Woodstock and Plainfield Academies, and completed his studies at the State Normal school, after which for a brief period he engaged in teaching. In 1861, on the call of the government for troops for the suppression of the rebellion, he left his duties on the farm and enrolled his name as a member of the First Connecticut Cavalry, continuing for three years in the service. He experienced all the trying vicissitudes of a soldier's life, and participated in the following en-

gagements: Second Battle of Bull Run, Cross Keys, Cedar Mountain, Leesburg, Chantilly, Culpepper Court House, South Mountain, Port Republic and Waterford, where he was made a prisoner. He served a term of nearly sixteen months as prisoner in the stockade prison at Andersonville, and in Savannah, Millen, Libby and at Belle Isle. During the seven months of his incarceration at Andersonville he endured all the privations and horrors inflicted upon the Union prisoners by the infamous Captain Wirtz, and witnessed daily the death of one hundred and fifty or more men, from hunger, exposure and cruelty. His rugged constitution enabled him to survive these horrors and effect an exchange, after which he returned to his home and has since been engaged in farming.

Mr. Bishop as a republican represented his town in the Connecticut legislature in 1872. He has been interested in the cause of education and was for several years acting school visitor. He has also been for a long period justice of the peace, and participated actively in the affairs of the town. He is a member of A. G. Warner Post, No. 54, Grand Army of the Republic, and one of the present delegates from Connecticut to the national convention to be held at Milwaukee. Mr. Bishop is a member of the Third Congregational church of Woodstock and has for many years been on the society committee, and the committee on supplies.

ABEL CHILD.—Benjamin Child emigrated from Great Britain to America in 1630, and became the head of most of the families of that name. A type of character patriarchal in the best sense, earnest in purpose, and in the promotion of that Puritanic stamp of piety for which the Massachusetts settlers were distinguished, he was one of the thirty who contributed toward the erection of the first church in Roxbury. Bearing the name of the youngest son of the head of the Israelites, like that patriarch, "in the land wherein he was a stranger," he became the father of twelve children, three of whom were baptized by the renowned John Eliot, their pastor.

Benjamin, the second son of Benjamin and Mary Child, married in 1683, Grace, daughter of Deacon Edward and Grace Bett Morris, Mr. Morris being one of the projectors and an early settler of the town of Woodstock. Their eldest son Ephraim, married in 1710, Priscilla Harris, of Brookline, Mass. The second son by the latter union was Daniel, who married Ruth Curtis,



Abel Child

ing Child married on the 25th of May, 1881, Carrie I., daughter of James I. Slade, of Pomfret. They have two sons: Chauncey Slade, born February 1st, 1885, and Spencer Holmes, whose birth occurred November 5th, 1886. These children represent the ninth generation in both the Child and Bugbees families, and the seventh now living on the Bugbee ancestral land, which has been deeded only in the direct line of descent.

EZRA DEAN was born in Killingly, Connecticut, on the 31st of August, 1813, and when twelve years of age, on the death of his father, came to Woodstock to reside with an uncle, who was then engaged in the business of a tanner and currier. He attended the nearest school for one or more years and then entered the tannery, with the intention of learning the trade. On the death of his relative he purchased the tannery, in connection with a small farm, and there resided until his death, December 7th, 1871.

Mr. Dean evinced much ability and forethought in the management of his business, and soon established it on a firm and successful basis. He was a liberal and public spirited citizen, contributing his means and lending his influence to most of the worthy objects that appealed to his generosity. He was faithful in discharge of both public and private trusts, making integrity and probity ruling principles in his life. He was one of the foremost contributors to Woodstock Academy, and to many other worthy projects. Mr. Dean represented his town in the state house of representatives in 1850, and was elected to the senate for the years 1852 and 1853. In 1861 he filled the office of state treasurer. He was appointed by President Lincoln collector of internal revenue in 1864, and the following year voluntarily resigned the office on account of failing health. He was again elected to the legislature in 1869. He was also a director of the First National Bank, of Putnam.

Mr. Dean, on the 13th of December, 1837, married Pamela B., daughter of Charles Hobbs, of Sturbridge, Mass. He was a member of the East Woodstock Congregational church, with which Mrs. Dean continues active and useful relations.

MARQUIS GREEN.—Thomas Green, the progenitor of the Green family in America, came from England in 1635, and settled in Malden, Mass. His son Henry, born in 1638, married in 1671, Esther Hasse. Among their seven children was a son Henry, born in 1672, who married in 1695, Hannah Flagg. Their son



Ezra Dean



W. H. L. & C. N. Y.

Marquis Green

Henry, the third of the name, born in 1696, married Judith ———, and resided in Killingly. A son John by this marriage, born in 1736, one of six children, was the father of Benjamin, whose birth occurred March 11th, 1766. He married Tamer Moffat, to whom were born four children. By a second marriage to Esther Jewett were seven children, the youngest of whom is the subject of this biography.

Marquis Green was born January 19th, 1816, in Thompson, where he attended the public schools and concluded his studies at the academy at Millbury, Mass. At the age of seventeen he learned the carpenter's trade, and for a period of thirty-five years was actively employed in this department of industry. In 1848 his present home in Woodstock was purchased, to which, after a life of activity, he retired in 1868, and has since that date been engaged in the improvement of the property. Mr. Green has been to some extent identified with public life. In politics he was formerly an old line whig, and later joined the republican ranks. He has officiated as selectman of his town, and in 1871 was its representative in the legislature, serving on the committee on constitutional amendments. He was one of the incorporators of the Putnam Savings Bank.

Mr. Green was married August 26th, 1840, to Clara G., daughter of David Goddard, of Millbury, Mass. Both Mr. and Mrs. Green worship with the Congregational church of Woodstock, of which the latter is a member. Their only child, a son, Clarendon M., was born February 18th, 1844, and at the age of eighteen joined the 18th Regiment, Connecticut volunteers, during the late war. He participated in all the battles in which his regiment was engaged, until wounded at the battle of Kernstown, near Winchester, Va. On his discharge he learned the carpenter's trade and succeeded to his father's business. He married Virgelia, daughter of James I. Sawyer, of Woodstock, and has three children: Justin Sawyer, born October 21st, 1869; Clara Sophia, March 15th, 1874, and James Marquis, January 31st, 1879.

WILLIAM LYON, 4th.—The progenitor of the Lyon family in Connecticut was William Lyon, born in 1675, who when fourteen years of age, came with an uncle to Woodstock and settled on the homestead farm now owned by Mrs. William Lyon and Mrs. Emma Lyon Frink. William Lyon, his eldest son, born in 1700, was the father of eight children, of whom Elijah, born

in 1727, had among his children a son William, born November 11th, 1778, who was the father of William 4th, the subject of this biography, born October 7th, 1801. His birthplace was the homestead farm, which has passed by inheritance into the hands the eldest son in the successive generations of the family since it was first acquired.

Mr. Lyon received a common school education and was early made familiar with the details of a farmer's life by his father, with the hope that he would succeed to his calling. The bent of his son's mind lay in the direction of a trade, and the skill with which he, unaided, erected the frame and built a barn on the farm, decided his fate as a carpenter and master builder. This trade he followed with great success for many years, his services having been in general demand in both town and county.

On the 31st of October, 1832, when thirty-one years of age, he married Harriet, daughter of Benjamin Green, of Thompson. Their children are a daughter Emma, Mrs. Frink, and a son Origen, who entered the army during the late war, was in several engagements and died from disease contracted during his period of service. William Lyon on his marriage built and removed to the dwelling now occupied by Marquis Green, where for fourteen years he resided. He then returned to the homestead, where his death occurred February 9th, 1859. He was actively interested in the political issues of the day, and as a whig was elected to the legislature and to various important offices in the town. He possessed mature judgment, a fund of strong common sense, and was highly esteemed as an influential citizen. In early years Mr. Lyon united with the Baptist church, of what was known as Quasset.

JOHN MCCLELLAN.—General Samuel McClellan, the father of the subject of this biography, was born in the town of Worcester, Massachusetts, January 4th, 1730, his parents having emigrated from Kircudbright, on the Firth of Solway, in Scotland. In the French war he served as an ensign and lieutenant of a company, during which service he was wounded. On his return from the provincial campaign he purchased a farm in Woodstock, and there married and settled. At a later date he engaged in mercantile business and established an extensive trade, not only importing his own goods but supplying other merchants as well. The war of the revolution, however, ended his commer-



Wm Lyon L^d



John A. Leelan

cial projects and enlisted his interest in the training and equipment of the militia of the county. A fine troop of horse was raised in the towns of Woodstock, Pomfret and Killingly, of which he took command. He rose by successive promotions until commissioned, in 1784, brigadier general of the 5th Brigade, Connecticut militia. In 1776 his regiment was ordered into service, and stationed in and about New Jersey. He was earnestly solicited by General Washington to join the continental army and tendered an important commission, but his domestic and business affairs necessitated a refusal of this offer. Immediately after the invasion and burning of New London and massacre at Fort Groton, he was appointed to the command of the troops stationed at those points, and thus continued until the close of the war. When not in active service he was employed as commissary in the purchase and forwarding of provisions for the army.

On the close of the conflict General McClellan returned to his mercantile pursuits, but soon abandoned them for the management of his extensive landed possessions. He was esteemed as a Christian gentleman, and honored by his townsmen with many important offices. In 1757 he married Jemima Chandler, a descendant of one of the earliest settlers of Woodstock, who had one daughter and three sons. He married a second time in 1766, Rachel Abbe, of Windham, whose children were three daughters and five sons.

His son John, the subject of this biography and the eldest child by his second union, was born on the 4th of January, 1767, in Woodstock, and fitted for college under the late Reverend Eliphalet Lyman. He entered Yale College in 1781, and received his first degree from that institution in 1785. He then removed to Norwich for the purpose of prosecuting the study of law under Governor Huntington, and later under Charles Church Chandler, Esq. He was admitted to the bar of Windham county in August, 1787, and at once began the practice of his profession in Woodstock, where he continued thereafter to reside.

Mr. McClellan came very early into public life in the government of his native state, and was for a period of twenty years, with some intervals of retirement, a member of the Connecticut legislature. He in most of the debates wielded a commanding influence, his animation, perfect good temper, and brief speeches, often seasoned by a vein of humor and anecdote, always securing respectful attention.

In his own town and county he enjoyed a wide ascendancy, both in secular and ecclesiastical affairs. His sound practical judgment and knowledge of business made him frequently an umpire in important matters, and the people were drawn to him both by their confidence in his integrity and wisdom and the invariable kindness of his manner. To the humblest individual he was attentive and conciliating, and benevolent to an extent that often subjected him to serious losses. In the family and the social circle the sunshine of a cheerful spirit always shone about him, nor was it long clouded even by disaster and sorrow. An intelligent reader and an enlightened conversationalist, his intercourse through life was chiefly with the cultivated and refined classes of society, though never forgetful of the courtesy due the poor and humble. He was a most perfect example of the Christian gentleman of the old school, among whom politeness was both a sentiment and a habit.

On the 22d of November, 1796, Mr. McClellan married Miss Faith Williams, daughter of Honorable William Williams, of Lebanon, Connecticut, whose mother was a daughter of the elder Governor Trumbull. Their children were: Mary Trumbull, who married Isaac Webb, and died in 1836; Faith Williams, wife of Rufus Mathewson, now residing with her daughter, Mrs. Alexander Warner, at Pomfret; Sarah Isabella, wife of Isaac Webb, and afterward married to Professor Benjamin Silliman, of Yale College, who died in 1875; Jane Calhoun, wife of Jonathan Weaver, now residing in Danielsonville; and two sons, John and Joseph, of Woodstock. The death of Mr. McClellan occurred on the 1st of August, 1858, at his home in Woodstock.

CHARLES HARRIS MAY.—Stephen May, the great-grandfather of Charles Harris May, first settled upon the homestead farm in Woodstock, which he bequeathed to his son Ephraim, familiarly known as "Captain Ephraim," who married Abigail Chandler. Their children were: Seth, Asa, Mary, Eliza, Julia and Henrietta. Asa May was born on the homestead farm now owned by the subject of this biographical sketch, where his life was spent as a farmer. He was an influential citizen, active in public affairs, possessing rare executive ability, and highly esteemed for his intellectual gifts and his exemplary character. He was an earnest Mason and much interested in that order. He married Sally, daughter of John May, and had children: Elizabeth, widow of Emerson Rawson; Charles Harris, Ezra C. and Carlo.



C H May

Mr. May's death occurred in 1830, at the early age of thirty-seven.

His son, Charles Harris, was born September 2d, 1823, on the farm where he resides. He enjoyed some advantages at the public school and at the academy, but is more indebted to his studious habits and careful reading than to other causes for an education. His life work has been that of an industrious and successful farmer. He has been more or less active in town affairs, filled the office of selectman of the town, and held other positions of trust. In 1854 he was elected to the Connecticut legislature. He is a member of the Woodstock Agricultural Society, of which he was for two years president, and has been for the same length of time a member of the state board of agriculture. Mr. May is a supporter of the Congregational church of East Woodstock, of which his wife is a member.

He was married March 13th, 1856, to Harriet F., daughter of Stephen and Abigail Carter Child of Woodstock. Their children are: Julia A., deceased; Charles H., married to Nellie Brayton; Herbert, married to Lena Ivons of Mystic, Conn.; Asa L.; Marion F., deceased; John S. and Everett E.

JOSEPH M. MORSE.—The progenitor of the Morse family in Woodstock is Anthony Morse, who, on his emigration to America, settled in Newbury, Mass., in 1635, and died in 1686. His son, Deacon Benjamin Morse, born in March, 1640, married Ruth Sawyer. His son, Benjamin, Jr., born in 1668, married Susannah Merrill. Their son, Abel, was united in marriage to Grace Parker, whose son, Doctor Parker Morse, A.M., married Hannah Huse, and became the father of eight children, one of whom was Abel Morse, who married Sarah Holbrook, and had twelve children. Leonard Morse, a son by the latter union, was born October 27th, 1770, and resided in Woodstock. He married Remembrance, daughter of Joseph Meacham, to whom were born six children, as follows: Albert (deceased), Nathan, Nelson, Stephen, Joseph M. and Charles D.

Joseph M. Morse, the subject of this biography, and the fifth son of Leonard and Remembrance Morse, was born in Woodstock, April 1st, 1823, and educated at the common schools. He until the age of seventeen, assisted at the work of the farm, and then learned the carriage maker's trade, which he followed for several years, first in Woodstock and later in Wilmington, N. C., Bowling Green, Ky., and elsewhere. In 1862 he responded to

the call of the government for troops to suppress the rebellion, and joined the Twenty-sixth regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, for a period of one year. He served with the Banks expedition, in the Department of the Gulf, and participated in the fights at Port Hudson, May 27th and June 14th, his regiment doing good service in both engagements. Mr. Morse, on abandoning his trade, turned his attention to farming, and in 1873 removed to his present home in Woodstock, where his attention is given chiefly to the cultivation of his land.

He has meanwhile not been unmindful of the public interests, and identified himself with the political measures of the day. He has been selectman, assessor and a member of the board of relief. In the year 1871 he represented his town in the Connecticut house of representatives. He is one of the directors of the National Bank of Webster, Mass., and an incorporator of two savings banks.

Mr. Morse was on the 11th of December, 1873, married to Lucy, daughter of Abiel May, of Woodstock, the latter being a son of Captain William May and a grandson of Thomas May, all of Woodstock. George A. May, a brother of Mrs. Morse, joined the army during the late rebellion as a member of Company D, Eighteenth Connecticut Volunteers, and participated in many important battles. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Morse are a daughter, Florence May, and a son, Arthur George.

The brothers of Mr. Morse are deserving of mention as enterprising and successful men. Albert, a progressive farmer, occupied the ancestral land in East Woodstock, where he ranked as a foremost citizen; Nathan has been much of his life engaged in the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds, and recently purchased a valuable mill privilege in Woodstock, to which his attention is now given; Nelson was formerly a carriage manufacturer, but at present devotes his time to the cultivation of a valuable farm; he has held various town offices, been county commissioner, member of the legislature and is active and efficient in public matters; Stephen owns and cultivates the farm on which his father formerly resided, has represented his town in the state legislature and been otherwise prominent in public affairs; Charles D., a resident of Millbury, Mass., is an extensive manufacturer of builders' materials, including sash, doors, blinds, etc., is one of the most influential residents of his town, has filled various local offices, and represented his constituents



Joseph M. Morse

in the state legislature, and is president of the National Bank of Millbury.

NATHAN E. MORSE is a descendant of Anthony Morse mentioned in the preceding sketch. His grandfather, Abel Morse, married Sarah Holbrook. Their son Nathan, born October 14th, 1785, was twice married; first in 1822, to Rebecca Child, and second to Mary Mills. By his first wife he had three children—Abel, George and Nathan E. Abel, born August 20th, 1823, married Mary Elliott, of Thompson, and died February 25th, 1858. George, born May 19th, 1825, married Sylvia C. May, of Woodstock, and is county commissioner.

Nathan Eugene Morse was born in Woodstock November 12th, 1829, and was married August 29th, 1850, to Sarah B., daughter of John Fowler, of Woodstock. They have had three children—Susie E., born June 14th, 1855, wife of Nathaniel G. Williams, of Brooklyn, Conn., and two who died in infancy. Nathan E. Morse received an academical education, and at the age of 18 years engaged in teaching, which he followed for several winters, working on the farm in summer. At 20 years of age he commenced farming on the Jonathan Carpenter farm, continuing there for five years. He then engaged in mercantile pursuits for six years, and has since followed farming, and during this time has been engaged in the mail contracting business and lumbering. In politics he is a republican. He has settled many estates, has been a member of the school board twenty years, assessor, member of the board of relief, selectman, justice of the peace many years, member of legislature in 1883, and trustee of Putnam Savings Bank seven years. He is deacon of the Congregational church of East Woodstock, and has been secretary of the Agricultural Society of Woodstock.

OLIVER H. PERRY.—Judge Perry's ancestors first settled in Massachusetts, his grandfather, Daniel Perry, having removed when a young man from Rehoboth, in that state, to Woodstock, where he became the owner of a valuable farm and the breeder of choice stock, which he shipped to the West Indies.

He married Judith Hunt, of Rehoboth, whose children were: John, Otis, Daniel, Judith, Sally and Nancy. Otis, of this number, was a native of West Woodstock, where, with the exception of a brief period in Greenfield, he engaged in the varied pursuits of miller and farmer. He married Polly, daughter of Chester Carpenter, of the same town. Two of their children died in

youth. A daughter, Mary W., first married to Chester A. Paine and now the wife of Waldo Phillips, and a son, Oliver H., are the survivors. The latter was born July 7th, 1821, in Greenfield, Mass., and removed at the age of two years, with his parents, to Woodstock. The district school and an academy at Wilbraham, Mass., afforded the opportunity for a common English education, after which he began work on the farm, and with the exception of two years spent as clerk, continued thus occupied until 1854. His father, in 1844, on retiring from active labor, gave him a deed of the homestead farm, in consideration of the filial care bestowed upon his parents in their declining years. In 1854 Judge Perry sold the property and removed to New York city, where he embarked in the flour and feed business, and was for eleven years a member of the firm of Phillips & Perry. In 1865, having purchased his present home, he settled again in Woodstock, where he has since been largely identified with local affairs.

Judge Perry in early days was an avowed abolitionist, and has always voted either the whig or republican ticket. He was at the beginning of his political career elected a justice of the peace, and in 1854 represented his town in the Connecticut house of representatives. He again served as justice, and in 1880 was made judge of probate for the district of Woodstock, which office he now fills. He is a director of the Putnam Savings Bank, treasurer of the Woodstock Creamery Corporation, and was one of the committee to purchase land and erect the buildings of the Woodstock Agricultural Association, of which he was for two years president and treasurer. His ability and judgment make his services invaluable in the settlement of estates and in kindred offices of trust. His religious belief is that of the Second Adventist church, with which he worships. Judge Perry was married September 24th, 1844, to Miss Mary Ann, daughter of Deacon Laban Underwood, of West Woodstock.



Oliver H Perry

CHAPTER XXXIV.

THE TOWN OF KILLINGLY.

Location and Description.—Original Killingly.—The Whetstone Country.—First Proprietors.—Attempts at Settlement.—Bounds and Claims.—Settlers and Settlement.—The Town Organized.—Localities.—Counterfeiters.—General Progress.—Taking Care of the Poor.—Highways.—Early Manufacturing.—Prosperity of Manufacturing Interests.—The Gospel Ministry.—Meeting House Controversy.—The Second Society formed.—South Killingly Church.

THE town of Killingly lies in the eastern central part of Windham county, on the Rhode Island border. In territory, population and business importance it is one of the largest towns of the county. Its territory, which originally embraced the whole northeast corner of Connecticut east of the Quinebaug and north of Plainfield, has been diminished by the formation of Thompson and Putnam in part from its territory. It is bounded by Putnam on the north, Rhode Island on the east, Sterling and Plainfield on the south, and Brooklyn and Pomfret on the west. Much of its surface is hilly and but moderately adapted to agriculture. It is well drained by the Assawaga or Five Mile river and its tributary, the Whetstone branch, and the Quinebaug, into which the former empties. The last named stream forms its entire western boundary. These waters afford power for a number of mills and manufacturing concerns, this town being one of the large manufacturing towns of the county. Alexander's Lake, a handsome sheet of water a mile in length by a half mile in breadth, lies in the northwest part, and Chaubamaug pond, a narrow body a mile and a half long, lies near the eastern border. The town is about nine miles long from north to south, and an average width of six miles from east to west. Thus it has an area of about fifty-foursquare miles. The Norwich & Worcester railroad runs along its western border the length of the town. The post offices of Danielsonville, Ballouville, Killingly, East Killingly and South Killingly are in this town. A small part of the borough of Danielsonville extends

into the limits of Brooklyn, otherwise the borough lies in this town. The factory villages of Attawaugan and Williamsville are in this town. The population of the town at different periods has been—in 1756, 2,100; in 1775, 3,486; in 1800, 2,279; in 1840, 3,685; in 1870, 5,712; in 1880, 6,921. The grand list was—in 1775, £27,907; in 1800, \$41,027; in 1845, \$35,727; in 1847, \$38,809; in 1857, \$44,938; in 1887, \$2,144,153.

The original township of Killingly was laid out north of Plainfield in 1708. It occupied the northeastern corner of Connecticut, in the wild border land between the Quinebaug and Rhode Island. This region, called the Whetstone country, was known to the white settlers of the surrounding towns, but was for a long time neglected. It was owned by the colony of Connecticut and not by individuals or companies, and tracts of it were given by the government in recognition of civil or military services rendered it. Its first white proprietors were thus the leading men of the colony. Governors Haynes, Treat and Saltonstall; Majors Fitch and Mansfield; the Reverend Messrs. Hooker, Pierpont, Whiting, Buckingham, Andrews, Noyes, Woodbridge and Russel; the Hons. Giles Hamlin, Matthew Allen and Caleb Stanley, had grants of land here and were associated with the early history of Killingly. The grant to Governor Haynes was given as early as 1642, that to the Reverend John Whiting in 1662, but the greater number at a later period. These grants were not located, but simply conveyed a specified quantity of land to be selected by the grantee according to his pleasure, so long as it did not "prejudice any particular township or former grant."

The first to take possession of land in the Whetstone country under these grants were Major James Fitch and Captain John Chandler. A grant of "fifteen hundred acres, to be taken up together and lying beyond New Roxbury, near the northeast corner of the Colony line," was confirmed to Major Fitch by the general court, in October, 1690. With his usual dispatch and discrimination, Fitch at once selected and had laid out to him the best land in the whole section—the interval between the Quinebaug and the Assawaga, extending from their junction at Acquiunk to Lake Mashapaug, and also the valley east of the Assawaga, as far north as Whetstone brook. Captain John Chandler of Woodstock, was next in the field, buying up land granted to soldiers for services in the Narragansett war. Two

hundred acres purchased by him from Lieutenant Hollister were laid out at Nashaway, the point of land between the Quinebaug and French rivers, and confirmed to him by the general court in 1691. A great part of the valley land adjoining French river, and a commanding eminence two miles east of the Quinebaug, then known as Rattlesnake hill, afterward Killingly hill, were speedily appropriated by Captain Chandler. The other grantees, less familiar with the country, and less experienced in land grabbing, found more difficulty in taking up their grants. The country was not easy to explore. Lack of roads, swelling streams, deep marshes, tangled forests and refractory Indians, all conspired to make the task of locating land claims at that time particularly laborious and hazardous. The Reverend Samuel Andrews succeeded in having his grant of two hundred acres laid out in 1692, west of Rattlesnake hill, bounded on three sides by wilderness.

The first white settler, as far as is known, came to Killingly in 1693. He was Richard Evans from Rehoboth. He had purchased of the Reverend James Pierpont a two hundred acre grant, for twenty pounds. Little is known of him, and the bounds of his farm cannot now be identified. It was in what was subsequently called the South Neighborhood of Thompson, and is now included in Putnam. In those early days his establishment served as a landmark, by which many other purchases were located.

In 1694 Reverend Noadiah Russel secured two hundred acres five miles southeast of Woodstock, east of the Quinebaug, "lands that bound it not taken up." In 1695 seventeen hundred acres, scattered about on Five Mile river, southeast from Evans', were confirmed to James Fitch, Moses Mansfield, Reverend Mr. Buckingham and Samuel Rogers. This was "the wild land in Killingly," afterward granted by Major Fitch to Yale College. Indian troubles interfered with further movements toward settlement, and Evans was probably the only settler here before the close of that century. When peace with the Indians was established, land speculation began here again. This valley of the Quinebaug, extending from the Great Falls, now in Putnam, to Lake Mashapaug, was then known as Aspinock, and had attracted the attention of Woodstock men, who saw value in it. Turpentine was gathered in large quantities from its numerous pine trees by that enterprising trader, James Corbin.

While engaged in this work in his employ, Joseph Leavens, a young man, was one day bitten on the thumb by a rattlesnake. There being no help near, the young man coolly chopped off the bitten thumb with his axe, and then killed the snake. His life was saved, but his thumb was lost, and in after years the Indians gave him the nickname, "Old One-thumb." In 1699 Reverend Russel sold his land to Peter and Nathaniel Aspinwall, Samuel Perrin and Benjamin Griggs, for twenty pounds. Lieutenant Aspinwall then settled on the land, a mile southeast of the falls.

In 1703 Aspinwall bought of Caleb Stanley two hundred acres south of Mashapaug lake. The land adjoining it westward and extending to the Quinebaug was laid out to Thomas Buckingham, and sold by him to Captain John Sabin of Mashamoquet, whose daughter Judith, married young Joseph Leavens, and received this beautiful valley farm as her marriage portion. James and Peter Leavens bought up land grants and also settled in this vicinity. Other settlers soon followed. These settlers, the pioneers of Killingly, located on or near the Quinebaug, mostly between the falls and Mashapaug lake, on the land called Aspinock, at distances of three, four and five miles from Woodstock. As details of the settlement of those parts of original Killingly which are now included in Thompson and Putnam are given in connection with the history of those towns, it will be unnecessary to repeat them further in this connection. We shall therefore confine our review now as far as practicable to the territory of the present town of Killingly.

The first settler south of Lake Mashapaug was James Danielson, of Block Island, who in 1707 purchased of Major Fitch "the neck of land" between the Quinebaug and Assawaga rivers, for a hundred and seventy pounds. Mr. Danielson had served in the Narragansett war, and his name appears on the list of officers and soldiers who received the township of Voluntown in recompense for their services. Tradition tells us that he passed through the Whetstone country on an expedition against the Nipmucks, and stopping to rest his company on the interval between these rivers, was so well pleased with the locality that he then declared that when the war should be ended he would settle there. Nothing more is known of him until thirty years later, when he bought the land from the junction of the rivers, "extending up stream to the middle of the long interval." Tradition adds that he first traded with the natives, receiving for a

trifle all that he could see from the top of a high tree, but found that Major Fitch had forestalled him, so then he bought out his claim. Mr. Danielson at once took possession of his purchase, built a garrison house near its southern extremity and was soon known as one of the most prominent men in the new settlement. No other settler appeared in this vicinity for several years. The land south from Acquiunk—the name given by the Indians to this locality—was held by Plainfield proprietors, under their purchase from Owaneco, and no attempt was made for many years to bring it into market.

The settlers in this locality were few in number, but their remoteness from the seat of government and independent mode of settlement made the organization of a town government very desirable. Their deeds of land transfer had to be recorded in Hartford, Plainfield and Canterbury. In May, 1708, the assembly granted town privileges to the people here, the patent of which set forth the bounds as follows: "Northerly on the line of the Massachusetts Province (it being by estimation about) five miles from the line between this Colony and the Colony of Rhode Island and the river called Assawaug; easterly on the said line between the said colonies; southerly, partly on the northern boundary of Plainfield and partly on a line to be continued east from the northeast corner bounds of Plainfield to the said line between the said Colonies; the said northern boundary of Plainfield being settled by order of the General Court, May the 11th, 1699, and westerly on the aforesaid river; the said township being by estimation about eight or nine miles in length and five or six miles in breadth, be the same more or less." The men named in the patent, as representing the proprietors, were Colonel Robert Treat, Major James Fitch, Captain Dan Wetherell, Joseph Haynes, Samuel Andrew, George Denison, James Danielson, David Jacobs, Samuel Randall, Peter Aspinwall and Joseph Cady.

Grantees now hastened to take up their lands and sell them to settlers, so that population increased much more rapidly than in the richer neighborhoods owned by corporations and large land-holders. The land north of Danielson's, extending from the middle of "the long interval" to Lake Mashapaug, was conveyed by Major Fitch to John, Nathaniel and Nicholas Mighill; a farm east of the lake was sold to John Lorton; David Church, of Marlborough, and William Moffat settled in the Quinebaug

valley, adjoining James Leavens. Many grants were bought up by Nicholas Cady north of Rattlesnake hill, in the neighborhood of Richard Evans, and sold by him to George Blanchard, of Lexington, Thomas Whitmore, William Price, John and Samuel Winter, John Bartlett, William Robinson and others, who at once took possession of this northern extremity of the town.

The claimants of lands within the bounds of original Killingly having located, described and recorded their lands, the remaining lands within the limits were given to the proprietors in common, and on October 13th, 1709, the payment of forty pounds through the agency of Captain Chandler having been made, a patent for the remaining lands was given by the governor and company of Connecticut to the following proprietors: Colonel Robert Treat, Major James Fitch, Captain John Chandler, Joseph Otis, James Danielson, Ephraim Warren, Peter Aspinwall, Joseph Cady, Richard Evans, Sr. and Jr., John Winter, Stephen Clap, John and William Crawford, George Blanchard, Thomas Whitmore, John Lorton, Jonathan Russel, Daniel Cady, William Price, William Moffat, James and Joseph Leavens, John, Nathaniel and Nicholas Mighill, John Bartlett, Samuel Winter, Ebenezer Kee, Isaac and Jonathan Cutler, Peter Leavens, Sampson Howe, John Sabin, John Preston, Philip Eastman, David Church, Thomas Priest, Nicholas Cady, John, Thomas, Matthew, Jabez and Isaac Allen. Nearly one-third of these forty-four patentees were non-residents, so that Killingly probably numbered at that date about thirty families. Only a small part of the territory was inhabited, and that mostly in the Quinebaug valley and the open country north of Killingly hill.

An extensive rise of land in the eastern part of the town was called Chestnut hill. A broad open plateau lay upon the top of this hill, while its steep sides were heavily wooded. This very desirable spot of ground was included in the grants laid out to John and Joseph Haynes, Timothy Woodbridge and Governor Treat; sold by them to John Allen; by him to Captain John Chandler, who sold the whole tract—2,400 acres, for £312—to Eleazer and Thomas Bateman, of Concord, Samuel and Thomas Gould, Nathaniel Lawrence, Ebenezer Bloss, Thomas Richardson and Ebenezer Knight, joint proprietors. John Brown, Moses Barret, Josiah Proctor, Daniel Carrol, Samuel Robbins, Daniel Ross and John Grover were soon after admitted among the Chestnut hill proprietors. Home lots were laid out on the hill

summit, but the remainder of the land was held in common by them for many years. A road was laid over the hill-top and carried on to Cutler's mill and the Providence way. The remainder of Haynes' grant was laid out east of Assawaga river, bordering south on Whetstone brook, and was purchased by Nicholas Cady, who, in 1709, removed his residence hither. This tract, together with Breakneck hill on the east, and much other land in this vicinity, passed into the hands of Ephraim Warren, son of Deacon Jacob Warren, of Plainfield, and who was one of the first settlers of Killingly Centre. The Owaneco land in the southern part of Killingly, held by Plainfield residents, was still unsettled and undivided, though many rights were sold or bartered. Edward Spalding bought the rights of James Kingsbury and William Marsh for £1, 10s. each. In 1708 Michael Hewlett purchased Parkhurst's right for one pound. Jacob Warren sold his right in this land to Nicholas Cady in exchange for land north of Whetsone brook, southwest from Chestnut hill, in 1710. Thomas Stevens at the same date sold his share to Ephraim Warren. John Hutchins bought out the rights of Nathaniel Jewell and Samuel Shepard.

Previous to this time the north line of Killingly had been what was known as Woodward and Saffery's line, then recognized as the boundary between Massachusetts and Connecticut, which line crossed what is now the southern part of Thompson. In 1713 this line was exchanged for a new one, six or seven miles farther north, which has since been recognized. As the charter of Killingly named the Massachusetts line as its north bound, the town now claimed the enlargement thus created. This claim was, however, denied by the government, by whom the north bounds of Killingly were declared "not to be above nine miles to the northwards of the said south bounds." But Killingly was persistent in asserting its claims, which were recognized by the courts, and this town continued to exercise jurisdiction over the territory in question, and admitting the people living upon it to ecclesiastical and civil rights in the town. In 1728 this territory was constituted a distinct society. By the government that society was regarded as independent of any town, but the society itself and the town of Killingly regarded it as belonging to that town, and so continued to exercise the conditions of such an association until the society became an organized town in 1785. At that time the dividing line between

Killingly and Thompson was agreed upon as a due east and west line between the Rhode Island line and the Quinebaug river, which line should run through the middle of a certain "heap of stones about two feet south of the garden wall owned by Mr. John Mason." The mansion house of Mr. John Mason, near the garden wall spoken of, is that now owned and occupied by Mr. William Converse, of Putnam.

The population of Killingly continued to increase. Daniel Cady removed to the south part of Pomfret, Nicholas Cady to Preston; but others took their places. Robert Day settled south of Whetstone brook in 1717. Nell-Ellick Saunders—afterward called Alexander—bought land of the non-resident Mighills in 1721, near Lake Mashapaug, which soon took the name of Alexander's lake, which has since clung to it. Joseph Covill, Philip Priest, Andrew Phillips and John Comins, of Charlestown, were admitted among the Chestnut hill company. John Hutchins, of Plainfield, is believed to have taken possession of the north part of the Owaneco purchase about 1720. In 1721 the town of Killingly laid out and distributed its first division of public lands. About eighty persons received shares of this land. No record is preserved of the terms and extent of this division. During this year the train-band was organized. Joseph Cady was chosen captain, Ephraim Warren lieutenant, and Thomas Gould ensign. Of the progress of schools, roads and many public affairs at that time, no knowledge can be obtained. A burial ground south of the Providence road was given to the town by Peter Aspinwall at an early date.

The first town meeting in Killingly of which there is existing record was held November 25th, 1728. But forty-four regularly admitted freemen were then reported, not half the adult male residents. Justice Joseph Leavens was moderator of that meeting. He was also chosen town clerk and first selectman. Eleazer Bateman, Isaac Cutler, Joseph Cady and Benjamin Bixby were also chosen townsmen; Robert Day, constable; Thomas Gould and Jonathan Clough, branders; Joseph Barret and John Russel, grand jurymen; Daniel Clark, Jabez Brooks, William Whitney, Israel Joslin, William Larned and Daniel Lawrence, surveyors; Daniel Waters, Andrew Phillips, Nathaniel Johnson and Jaazaniah Horsmor, listers; Benjamin Barret and Jacob Comins, fence viewers; John Hutchins, tithing man. Peter Aspinwall, James Leavens, Sampson Howe and Joseph Cady still remained

in charge of the public lands of the town. The school moneys were proportioned to the two societies according to their respective lists. A year later a committee was appointed to lay out highways in Thompson parish, which was in 1730 recognized as a parish belonging to the town of Killingly, by an act of the assembly. The military company of the south part of Killingly was now re-organized with Ephraim Warren, captain; Isaac Cutler, lieutenant; and Samuel Danielson, ensign. Isaac Cutler, Sampson Howe and Mrs. Mary Lee were allowed to keep houses of public entertainment.

Mr. James Danielson, one of the early and enterprising settlers of Killingly, laid out a burial ground between the rivers, on his land, and was himself the first one to be buried in it. The inscription on the earliest stone in that ground is as follows:

“In memory of the well beloved Mr. James Danielson, who, after he had served God and his generation faithfully many years in this life, did, with the holy disciple, lean himself upon the breast of his Beloved, and sweetly fell asleep in the cradle of death, on the 22d day of January, A. D. 1728, in the 80th year of his age. ‘A saint carries the white stone of absolution in his bosom, and fears not the day of judgment.’”

Mr. Danielson left a son Samuel in possession of his homestead and much landed property. Among his estate were five negroes, valued at six hundred pounds.

The first settler of South Killingly, Jacob Spalding, was thrown from his cart and instantly killed, in 1728. He left two young children, Simeon and Damaris. His widow afterward married Edward Stewart, a reputed scion of the royal family of Scotland. Shepard Fisk, afterward a prominent man in public affairs, settled near Killingly Centre prior to 1730. Daniel Lawrence, of Plainfield, settled on a farm in the Owaneco purchase, and title to land “south of Manhumsqueag bounds,” was confirmed to him. One of the first residents of Killingly hill was probably Noah, son of Joseph Leavens, who established himself on its southern extremity about 1740. The road over and west of the hill was often altered to suit the convenience of the inhabitants. Samuel Cutler was allowed to open his house for travelers in 1740. The tavern stand afterward known as Warren’s, at the fork of the roads, a half mile east of Cutler’s, was first occupied by John Felshaw in 1742. In the same year John Hutchins was licensed to keep a tavern in the south part of the

town. Pounds were allowed in different neighborhoods for securing stray animals belonging to this or other towns, which were running at large over the commons of Killingly and becoming a source of great annoyance and damage to the people. In 1749, when by direction of assembly the bounds of the town, including Thompson parish, were more definitely settled and established than they had before been, the town then being divided into three societies, the taxable property in the north society (Thompson) amounted to £8,850; that in the middle society, £4,359; and that in the south society, £6,112.

Killingly was greatly disturbed in 1759, by the discovery of a gang of counterfeitters within her borders, engaged "in the vile crime of aiding in making counterfeit bills of credit." A son of one of her most respectable citizens was implicated in this affair, convicted, and sentenced to perpetual confinement. A large number of his fellow townsmen interceded in his behalf, "that they had known him from a child, and known him to be honest and regular, and took care of his aged father and mother, to as good acceptance as could be, and was in good credit among his neighbors, as little mistrusted as any young man in town, and were of opinion that he was over persuaded by evil minded persons." Through these representations, and his own declaration that he had been importuned by a certain Frenchman and others, the assembly granted the prisoner liberty "to remove to Killingly and there dwell and remain."

In January, 1775, a number of public-spirited citizens secured from Reverend Aaron Brown and Sampson Howe a deed of about three acres of land adjoining the meeting house lot, for the benefit of the public as a common forever. In South Killingly affairs seem to have been less prosperous than in the middle and northern societies. Unity was wanting in the ecclesiastical affairs, three different churches claiming the field and struggling for existence there.

Captain John Felshaw, long prominent in town and public affairs, died at an advanced age, in 1782. His famous tavern was held for a time by Samuel Felshaw, and sold in 1797, to Captain Aaron Arnold, of Rhode Island. Business at this time was developing. A store was opened on the hill by Sampson Howe. William Basto engaged in the manufacture of hats. Stout chairs and excellent willow baskets were made by Jonathan and Joseph Buck. During the early part of the present century manufac-

turing received much attention, and a very considerable impulse was given to the business development of the town. This impulse was also manifested in other activities. The mineral resources of the town were sought out and brought before the public. The old Whetstone hills were found to enclose valuable quarries of freestone, suitable for building purposes. Rare and beautiful detached stones, as well as extensive quarries, were found on Breakneck hill. A rich bed of porcelain clay was discovered on Mashentuck hill, which was pronounced by good judges to equal the best French or Chinese clay. Indications of lead and still more valuable ores were also reported. These mineral treasures, however, have never been developed to any profitable degree. The quality of the clay proved unequal to what was anticipated, and a lack of facilities have prevented the realization of the sanguine expectations of those early years.

In 1836 the town had five post offices, all of which retained the town name, the cardinal points being used to distinguish four of them from the fifth, as well as from one another. At that time the Centre postmaster was J. Field; North, Luther Warren; East, H. Peckham; South, Cyrus Day; West, George Danielson.

The expense of taking care of the poor was in early years considerable of a burden upon the town, and measures were taken to avoid, as much as possible, the increase of that burden. The custom of farming out the poor to whoever would keep them at the lowest price was commonly practiced. During the latter part of the last century a work house appears to have been temporarily provided from year to year, and some citizen appointed to have charge of it. In this way the poor were made practically self-supporting. About 1833 a permanent house was secured, which was said to be a *very poor* house. An Indian woman, who went there to live, after the wind had demolished her own wigwam, approved the accommodations, saying, when asked how she liked her new home: "Pretty well, 'cos we live just like Injuns."

Among the first public movements of this town in the direction of providing highways within the limits of the present town, was the opening of a "gangway," which in fact was already there when the town was organized, in 1709, leading from Plainfield to Boston. This extended through the entire length of the town, connecting by a cross road with the ways to Hartford and Woodstock, at the fording place below the Great Falls

of the Quinebaug. Its condition may be inferred from the tradition that when James Danielson's negro was sent to Boston with a load of produce, he had made so little progress after a day's journey that he went home to sleep the first night. The Providence way, after encircling the base of Killingly hill, wound back far to the north, past Isaac Cutler's residence, enabling the inhabitants to procure boards from his saw mill, and helping to build up that remote section. Mr. Cutler was early allowed to keep a house of entertainment, and his tavern was noted as the last landmark of civilization, on the road from Connecticut to Providence. Other parts of the town were then only accommodated with rude bridle paths.

About the year 1729 the organization of the town seemed to take a fresh impetus, and among other matters that received renewed attention, the roads were remodelled and placed in better condition. Chestnut hill settlers were allowed a way from Sergeant Ebenezer Knight's at the south end of the hill, northward over the hill to Lieutenant Isaac Cutler's, "as the road was laid out by Chestnut hill purchasers through their tract." Bridle roads with gates for passing, crossing the hill, were also allowed from Ebenezer Knight's to John Lorton's, and from Ebenezer Brooks' to Joseph Barret's. A highway was also ordered from the bridge over Whetstone brook to the settlement in South Killingly, and a cart-bridge over Little river in Daniel Lawrence's field. In 1731, Captain Warren, Captain Howe and George Blanchard were appointed "to perambulate the highway that comes from Plainfield, leading toward Oxford," remove nuisances and report needful alterations. This important road, communicating with Boston, Norwich and New London, was then thoroughly perambulated and surveyed, from John Hutchins' on the south to Nathaniel Brown's on the north—a distance of eighteen or twenty miles—and some important alterations suggested. Instead of winding westward around the base of Killingly hill, it was now carried "to a heap of stones on a rock upon the hill," facilitating settlement on this beautiful eminence.

In 1749 a road was laid out in the south part of the town, to accommodate the inhabitants traveling to the south meeting house, beginning on Voluntown line, "near the road now laid to the saw mill standing on Moosup," and extending to the bridge over Whetstone brook. A bridle road was also laid out from Daniel Waters' to the south meeting house, and the road over

the north side of Chestnut hill leading to "where the old meeting house stood," was turned east of Enoch Moffatt's house, over a brook, to the new house of worship. A road was completed directly from Providence to the south part of Killingly in 1750, and a new bridge built over the Quinebaug, near Captain Samuel Danielson's. A committee was thereupon appointed to lay out a convenient road through the town from this bridge to the Providence highway. A road was also laid out from this convenient bridge northeast, to Five Mile river; also, one from the old burial place to the new meeting house on Killingly hill, and others in different parts of the town. A committee was appointed, December 1st, 1754, "to view and survey our country roads, and take quit-claim deeds of all the persons who owned lands where the roads cross." The road from Plainfield to Massachusetts line through the town received especial attention. Quit-claim deeds were received from John Hutchins and his sons, Joseph, Wyman, Ezra and Silas Hutchins, Willard Spalding, Samuel Danielson, Daniel Waters, Boaz Stearns, Daniel Davis and many others. The length of this road, as thus surveyed, was found to be seventeen miles $250\frac{1}{2}$ rods.

In 1757 a road was laid out from Danielson's bridge to Voluntown line, near a saw mill called John Priest's. The bridge built by Samuel Cutler over the Quinebaug at the Falls, was next examined by the selectmen and found "rotten and defective, and not safe to pass over." It was then voted, "To build that part of the bridge that belongs to Killingly to build, Edward Converse to build it and proceed speedily to do the same." In 1767 Briant and Nathaniel Brown and Benjamin Leavens were appointed "to join with Pomfret gentlemen in repairing the bridge called Danielson's." However well repaired, it was soon carried away by a freshet, and a new committee appointed in 1770, "to rebuild our part of the bridge at Cargill's Mills, and view the Quinebaug above and below where Danielson's bridge stood, and see where they could set a bridge." William Danielson was allowed twenty-nine pounds for building half the latter bridge, and a new road was laid out from it to Voluntown. In 1774 the Quinebaug was bridged between Cargill's and Danielson's, near the residence of Deacon Simon Cotton.

A new road was laid out about 1795, from the country road near Doctor Hutchins' dwelling house, running east to Mr. Day's

meeting house, through lands of Penuel and Zadoc Hutchins, Samuel Stearns, Wilson Kies, James Danielson and the sons of Deacon Jacob Spalding. The petition for an open highway through lands of William Torrey, heirs of Reverend John Fisk and others, was opposed for a time, but finally granted. A new road was also allowed from Jonathan and Philip Dexter's to Cutler's bridge, in the eastern part of the town. An act of the county court obliged the selectmen to lay out a road from the road near Edward Babbitt's, on Chestnut hill, to the meeting house in the north parish. A jury met at Sampson Howe's in December, 1799, and laid out a road from Captain John Day's through lands of Carpenter, Alexander, Kelly, Leavens, Howe, Whipple and Warren. After much discussion it was decided, in 1801, "to lay out a turnpike from the Norwich turnpike, in Pomfret, to the turnpike in Gloucester." This Pomfret and Killingly turnpike, passing over Killingly hill by the meeting house, was accomplished in 1803, but the exhausted town declined to build half the new bridge needed for its accommodation till cited before the court to answer for its negligence. The bridge was then built, but not being built in a substantial and workmanlike manner, it was soon carried away by high water, and the town thus involved in fresh difficulties and arbitrations.

Many new roads were demanded for the accommodation of the manufacturing interests, in which this town was involved in the early part of the century. The town accepted a road laid out from Danielson's Factory to the country road near the dwelling house of Solomon Sikes, at the same time declining responsibility for the bridge over Five Mile river, and voted not to oppose a road from Danielson's to the house of Reverend Israel Day, and thence to Rhode Island line. This new road to Providence was very needful for the transportation of goods and cotton. The mercantile operations of Captain Alexander Gaston, who had removed from Sterling to South Killingly, were also greatly benefitted thereby. His flourishing store added greatly to the importance of South Killingly. He was accustomed to buy large quantities of goods in New York, and when his ships were expected to arrive in Providence, the farmers of this neighborhood would hurry down to haul them up to his place of business in Killingly.

The mill privilege on the Five Mile river, afterward occupied by "the Howe Factory," was in 1760 improved by Jared Talbot and David Perry, who accommodated the neighborhood with sawing and grinding. In August, 1807, James Danielson, Zadoc and James Spalding asked liberty to build a dam on the Quinebaug, between Brooklyn and Killingly. The relations between the Windham towns and their Rhode Island neighbors had been always most intimate and friendly. Providence was their most accessible market. Their first public work was to open a way to that town. Now that the era of manufacturing was opening, those intimate relations were intensified. Killingly caught the spirit of manufacturing enterprise. Walter Paine and Israel Day of Providence, William Reed, Ira and Stephen Draper of Attleborough, Ebenezer and Comfort Tiffany, John Mason and Thaddeus Larned of Thompson, William Cundall, Sr. and Jr., joined with Danielson and Hutchins in the Danielsonville Manufacturing Company of Killingly.

The manufacturing excitement raged with great violence in this town, its numerous rivers offering such convenient facilities that her own citizens were able to embark in such enterprises with less foreign aid than was requisite in other towns. "Danielson's Factory," at the Quinebaug Falls, enjoyed a high place in popular favor, its twenty liberal handed stockholders, mostly town residents, prosecuting its various business affairs with much energy. William Reed served most efficiently for many years as its agent. Its well filled store was managed for many years by the Tiffany Brothers, from Rhode Island.

The "Stone Chapel," on the present site of the Attawaugan, was built by Captain John and Ebenezer Kelly, for John Mason of Thompson, in 1810, but did not get into successful operation for some years, when John, James B. and Edward Mason, Jr., were incorporated as the "Stone Chapel Manufacturing Company." Messrs. John Mason and Harvey Blashfield had the oversight of this establishment. The tallow candles needed for its morning and evening service were dipped by Miss Harriet Kelly, in batches of forty dozen at a time.

The privilege on the Five Mile river, long occupied by Talbot's grist mill, passed into the hands of the Killingly Manufacturing Company in 1814. Its constituent members were: Rufus Waterman, Thomas Thompson, John Andrews, of Providence; David Wilkinson, Henry Howe, of North Providence;

Doctor Robert Grosvenor, Jedidiah Sabin, Elisha Howe, Benjamin Greene, of Killingly; Smith Wilkinson, Eleazer Sabin, of Pomfret. The Howes had charge of the business, and the factory soon built was called by their name.

The remarkable descent of the Whetstone brook furnished privileges quite out of proportion to its volume of water. The first Chestnut Hill Company to take advantage of this fall was constituted by Joseph Harris, Ebenezer Young, Calvin Leffingwell, Asa Alexander, George Danielson and Lemuel Starkweather, whose wheels and spindles were soon competing with those of other manufacturers.

The greatest spirit and activity prevailed in these growing villages. Everybody was hard at work, building, digging, planting, carting, weaving, spinning, picking cotton, making harnesses, dipping candles, and attending the thousand wants of the hour. The intense mechanical activity of the time was manifested by a remarkable feminine achievement, the exercise of the inventive faculty hitherto dormant in the female mind. Mrs. Mary Kies of South Killingly, invented "a new and useful improvement in weaving straw with silk or thread," for which she obtained in May, 1809, the *first patent issued to any woman in the United States*, and she is also said to have been the first female applicant. Mrs. President Madison expressed her gratification by a complimentary note to Mrs. Kies. The fabrication of this graceful and ingenious complication was thus added to the other industries of Killingly.

Killingly's excessive activity during the war of 1812 was followed by corresponding depression. Mills owned by men of moderate means were generally closed, and those still kept at work did so at pecuniary loss to the proprietors. Experiments in machinery and modes of working were meanwhile tested, power looms introduced, and many improvements effected. Companies were reorganized, new men and capital brought in, and when business revived, Killingly mills were soon under fresh headway. In 1819 the town had so far recovered from its losses as to report four factories in operation, all of which contained about five thousand spindles, and had been erected at an expense, including buildings and machinery, of nearly \$300,000. At the Danielson Manufactory water looms had been introduced, and in general the business was carried on upon the most improved principles and very advantageously. Besides the cot-

ton factories there were one woolen factory, one gin distillery, one paper hanging manufactory, four dye houses, three clothiers' works, three carding machines, three tanneries, eight grain mills and eight saw mills. Experiments in straw weaving were brought to an untimely end by a sovereign decree from the supreme arbiter of fashion, and hopes of pecuniary profit proved as brittle as the straw with which Mrs. Kies had wrought out her ingenious invention. Her son, Daniel Kies, Esq., of Brooklyn, as well as friends at home, lost heavily by investing in a manufacture, which, by a sudden change of fashion, became utterly valueless.

Killingly is reported by Barber in 1836, "the greatest cotton manufacturing town in the State." Its reputation and resources had been magnified by the building up of Williamsville on the Quinebaug, and Dayville on the Five Mile river. Dayville was commended "for its neat appearance, and for a bridge composed of two finely constructed stone arches, each 25 feet broad and 12 high." Captain John Day sold two-thirds of this privilege to Prosper and William Alexander, and joined them in building and equipping a cotton factory in 1832. Caleb Williams of Providence, purchased the Quinebaug privilege, and erected a handsome stone building in 1827. Danielson's mills had passed into the hands of the sons of General Danielson, and began to be noted "as a thriving village." The temperance reform had swept away the distillery at Mason's factory, and "Gin-town" was transferred into Ruggles' factory. The Killingly Company owning Howe's factory was reorganized in 1828. Smaller factories on the Five Mile river were run by Ballou and Amsbury. The carding machine on the outlet of Alexander's lake had been superseded by a woolen factory. Great activity prevailed in the east part of the town, where some half dozen mills were propelled by the lively little Whetstone, under the patronage of Ebenezer Young, Richard Bartlett, Prosper Leffingwell, Asa Alexander, John S. Harris, Thomas Pray and others. An aggregate of twenty-five thousand spindles was reported, with three woolen mills, one furnace and one axe factory. In 1840 Killingly boasted the largest population in Windham county, having gained upon Thompson, which stood at the head in 1830.

Among the early manufacturing interests of Killingly was that of Calvin Leffingwell, a native of Pomfret, who came to East Killingly in 1828, and in company with Jedidiah Leav-

ens built a mill for the manufacture of cotton cloth, of twenty-four looms. This mill, after running many years and passing into other hands, was burned and not rebuilt. Mr. Leffingwell died at Danielsonville in 1872.

The first movement in the direction of establishing the Gospel ministry in Killingly was in 1708, when the court granted "liberty to the inhabitants of Killingly to survey and lay out one hundred acres of land within their township for the use and encouragement of a minister to settle there and carry on the worship of God among them." A hundred acres of land for the first settled minister were also pledged to the town by Captain Chandler, in presence and with concurrence of the selectmen.

The first minister was Reverend John Fisk, of Braintree, Mass., a son of Reverend Moses Fisk and a graduate of Harvard. His work probably began about 1710, religious services being held in private houses, alternating between different parts of the town. July 16th, 1711, the town agreed to give Mr. Fisk three hundred and fifty acres of land for his encouragement to settle in the work of the ministry. Two hundred acres were laid out on French river, which were afterward proved to be beyond the bounds of Killingly. Seventy-five acres were laid out on the western slope of Killingly hill and seventy-five on Assawaga or Five Mile river. Stated religious services were probably held after this date by Mr. Fisk, though some years passed before his settlement, neighborhood ministers meanwhile being called in to administer baptism and other sacraments as occasion required.

In the summer of 1714, the meeting house was raised and covered. Its site was east of the Plainfield road, about one-fourth of a mile south of the present East Putnam meeting house. Nothing is known of its size and appearance, or of the circumstances of its building. In the ensuing summer it was made ready for occupation, and preparations made for church organization. September 15th, 1715, was observed in Killingly as a day of solemn fasting and prayer, preparatory to the gathering of a church and the ordination of a pastor. October 19th, 1715, a church was organized, and Reverend John Fisk ordained the pastor of it. The original members were: John Fisk, James Danielson, Peter Aspinwall, James Leavens, Sampson Howe, Ebenezer Balman, Richard Bloosse, George Blanchard, Isaac

Jewett, Thomas Gould and Stephen Grover. Sixteen additional communicants were admitted into the church before the close of the year. December 29th, 1715, Peter Aspinwall and Eleazer Balman were chosen deacons. The first marriage recorded by the young minister was that of William Larned to Hannah, the first of the seven notable daughters of Simon Bryant. The only incident of his domestic life that has come down to us is the burning of his house and all its contents one Sabbath when the family were attending public worship. The ministry of Reverend Mr. Fisk was acceptable and prosperous, and large numbers were added to the church. His pastoral charge comprehended also the inhabitants north of Killingly. The hundred acres of land given by Captain Chandler to the first settled minister of Killingly were laid out to him in 1712, west of Five Mile river, a half mile east of the meeting house.

This church prospered for a while. A season of special religious interest in 1728-9 added sixty to its membership. Eleazer Bateman, Jr., was chosen deacon in 1730, and Haniel Clark in 1733. Mr. Fisk remained in the pastorate till July 8th, 1741, when he was dismissed at his own request. During his ministry he had performed 463 baptisms, and admitted 254 members into full communion and 148 to the "half-way covenant."

A protracted meeting house controversy followed the dismissal of Mr. Fisk. It was decided to build a new meeting house, and at the same time a division of the First society into two was contemplated. The people of each prospective society wished to have the new meeting house located so that it would fall within their own bounds when the division should be made. The northern people wished it to stand near the old church, on Killingly hill, while the southern people wished it to be located on Breakneck hill. In October, 1743, the assembly, after hearing the case and reports of committees, decided that the latter site, which was nearly central to the society as then constituted, should be adopted. November 21st the society by a large vote refused to build on that site. The question was re-opened at a later meeting, in December, and a controversy in regard to the qualification of some proposed voters became so clamorous that the moderator dissolved the meeting, and most of the people went home. The southern party then having the field, reorganized the meeting and voted to build a meeting house on Breakneck hill. A committee was appointed for the purpose, and the

work was immediately carried forward. The "Breakneck party," though probably in the minority, had obtained the lead and were carrying things by storm. In the midst of the confusion and excitement that prevailed, a messenger was sent to report the irregular proceedings to the governor and council. On the day appointed for raising the meeting house frame, March 28th, 1744, a large company gathered on the ground. When the frame was partly raised the northern party arrived upon the ground, with a message from the governor and council expressing the opinion that it was irregular and "high handed disorder" for any party to carry forward the work of building, in defiance of the properly expressed determination of the society, even though the society had refused to do the bidding of the assembly. The opinion and advice was that it was the business of the assembly to see that its decrees were carried out, and was not proper for a part of the society to volunteer to act in that direction against the desires of the majority. The opinion and advice were not heeded by the builders, who went boldly forward with their work until the meeting house was raised and covered.

The disgraceful wrangle between the two parties was carried to the assembly, and so well balanced were their counter charges against each other in respect to irregularities and unfairness that the assembly were at a loss to know how to decide between them, and postponed any action till October, when it decided that the meeting house should stand and be finished where it was. The Breakneck party were now in triumphant gladness, but the northern people, as well as those in the extreme south, were not disposed to accept the situation. Thus the Killingly First society was broken into many factions. There was the Breakneck party, who wanted the society to remain with a meeting house in the center. In the north and south ends of the society were factions striving for a division into two societies, so that each could be better accommodated with a meeting house near them. Then, to add to the complications, the Separate or New Light movements were raging at this time, and this made subdivisions of each faction.

In October, 1745, the assembly divided the society and made two distinct societies of it. Under this act each claimed the prerogative of being the First society, and with this dispute they again repaired to the assembly. This, however, was quickly settled in favor of the north society.

The First society and church now hastened to reorganize. The church at its reorganization, November 29th, 1745, was composed of the following members: Joseph Leavens, Sr., Joseph Leavens, Jr., Thomas Moffatt, Daniel Whitmore, Joseph Cady, David Roberts, Sr., David Roberts, Jr., Samuel Buck, John Brown, Ebenezer Brooks, Francis Whitmore, John Roberts, Andrew Phillips, Ephraim Day, Benjamin Leavens, John Leavens, Thomas Mighill. Reverend Pearley Howe was then pastor elect, and continued in that relation until his death, March 10th, 1753, being then in his forty-third year. His wife was Damaris, daughter of Captain Joseph Cady. He received the commendation of being "a highly respectable and useful minister." By consent of the town the First society in the last end of 1745 proceeded to pull down the old meeting house and to build a new one about a quarter of a mile north of it, on the "east side of the country road right against Noah Leavens' dwelling house," where an acre of land had been given for the purpose by Justice Joseph Leavens. The house now erected was said to be superior to any other in the county. It had three great double doors, opening east, west and south; large square pews, furnished with lattice work; a high pulpit and sounding board; galleries, front and sides, with rising seats and wall pews in the rear, and two flights of broad stairs leading to them. Reverend Aaron Brown, of Windsor, was ordained January 19th, 1754, and soon after married the widow of his predecessor. The society was divided into three school districts, each district maintaining its own school. The church and society were now prosperous. Reverend Emerson Foster, the successor of Reverend Aaron Brown, was ordained here January 21st, 1778, the society offering him £220 for settlement and £20 salary. Dissatisfaction soon arose, many withdrew to the Baptist society and it soon became difficult to raise the money. In July, 1779, Mr. Foster was dismissed, and for a time religious services were maintained somewhat irregularly by Russel Cook and others for several years. Reverend Elisha Atkins, of Middletown, was installed in the pastoral office here June 3d, 1787, the society granting two hundred pounds settlement, fifty-five pounds salary, and the cutting and drawing of the minister's firewood. The house was repaired and a belfry added and a bell procured and placed in it. Sampson Howe was to be paid twenty dollars a year for ringing the bell and sweeping the meeting house. Mr. Atkins proved a most ex-

cellent pastor, and as a citizen was interested in all plans for public improvement.

The old church was becoming out of repair, and a new one was talked of in 1815, but nothing was done till the famous "September gale" damaged the building, so that repairs on it were no longer practicable. The remains of the old building were sold at auction, January 28th, 1818, and during the ensuing summer a new house was built on "that part of the ancient meeting house lot lying between Providence and Killingly Turnpike, and the road leading to the new factory, so called, near the east side of said lot." It is said the "spirits" used in raising this frame cost twenty-five dollars.

Mr. Atkins continued in sole charge of the church on Killingly hill until 1832, when, after nearly a half century's service, he was compelled to employ a colleague. Reverends William Bushnell, Sidney Holman and Henry Robinson, were successively installed in office; the latter remaining in charge several years after the death of the venerable pastor in 1839. Reverend James Mather appears to have been in charge of the church in 1846. Later history of this church will be found in connection with Putnam, in which town it is now situated.

The society of Killingly being divided, as we have already seen, into two societies, meeting houses and churches were established in both ends of the former society, and the meeting house on Breakneck hill not being available for either, it was of but little further use. It was used for various irregular religious services and for public town meetings, and after a number of years was taken down, and some of its timbers used in the construction of the town house at Killingly Centre. A few mouldering gravestones on the rugged summit of Breakneck hill remain to mark the neighborhood of its site. The church and society were by the organization of others reduced to the merest remnants, which soon faded out entirely, the church records being destroyed by fire, so that the details of the Breakneck church are buried in oblivion. The church appears to have maintained strength enough to have a minister more or less of the time until about the end of the last century.

The inhabitants in South Killingly were permitted, on account of their remoteness from the Killingly hill meeting house, in the winter of 1734-35 to employ a minister to preach to them during the winter season, though they were required to pay

rates to the regular minister the same as before. In April, 1735, the assembly granted the South Killingly people, who then numbered about one hundred and fifty souls, liberty "to hire an orthodox minister five months in the year, and freedom from the ministerial tax during that period." This temporary exemption from rate-paying did not become their permanent privilege until 1755, when they were released by the assembly from further charges to the South society, in which they were embraced in the division of 1745. This happy result was secured from the colonial government only by an appeal first to the throne of Great Britain in the reign of George II. The petition from South Killingly was the first to gain a favorable hearing in the colonial assembly.

The same year in which the church worshipping on Breakneck hill was instituted (known as the South church in Killingly) a Separate church was organized in South Killingly, December, 1746, with Stephen Spalding as clerk. In the early spring of the next year Stephen Spalding and John Eaton were chosen deacons. April 27th, 1747, Samuel Wadsworth was elected pastor. His installation occurred June 3d, 1747, some of the most respected Separate ministers being present to assist in his ordination—Reverend Matthew Smith, of Stonington, Reverend Joseph Snow, of Providence, Ebenezer Cleveland, of Canterbury, Isaac Backus, the church historian, and Oliver Prentice, of Stonington.

During the successful ministry of Mr. Wadsworth several of the remaining Indians were led to reform their lives and to unite with the church. Mr. Wadsworth's pastorate was terminated by his death in 1762, and in November of that year a call was extended to Reverend Thomas Denison. This relation was an unhappy one, lasting a little less than two years; to be followed by the very able and acceptable ministry of Eliphalet Wright, who was inducted into the pastoral office May 16th, 1765. An important work accomplished under his leadership was a revision and a re-signing of the church's articles of faith and covenant. The faith and covenant of the Plainfield Separate church were voted "a good and wholesome system of our faith and practice and agreed to as our covenant, by which we will walk for the future looking for more light."

In 1776 the Divine Spirit was sent down upon the people like gentle rain, which lasted for more than two years, in which time

about fifty persons were received into the church. This "beloved pastor" met his death August 4th, 1784, from the effects of an injury received while leading a fractious animal. His burial place is in the old cemetery, as is also that of his predecessor, Samuel Wadsworth. The headstones of each are legible and in a good state of preservation. Mr. Wright was an ardent patriot, shouldering his musket on one occasion and marching as far as Plainfield to repel the invading British.

June 1st, 1785, Israel Day assumed the office made vacant by the death of Mr. Wright, Reverend Ebenezer Bradford, of Rowley, Mass., preaching the installation sermon. Forty-one years Mr. Day went in and out before this people, resigning his charge in 1826, May 23d. In his ministry the church enjoyed two seasons of special religious interest and joyful ingathering of souls. In 1788 forty-nine were added to the church, and in 1800 and 1801 sixty-four. A narrative of the latter remarkable revival from Mr. Day's own pen was published subsequently in the *Evangelical Magazine*. This man of God received a fatal injury in the barn of his grandson five years after he had laid down his charge. His loss was mourned through all the region round about. December 10th, 1831, was the date of his decease. His funeral sermon was preached by Daniel Dow, D. D., of Thompson, from Psalms 1, 5. Like his predecessors, Mr. Day was buried with his own people. In his long ministry he attended 756 funerals.

For the six years succeeding the resignation of Mr. Day, the pulpit was supplied only with occasional preaching by different ministers, whose names have not been preserved, as there are no existing church records of this period. A Reverend Mr. Wheelock has left the strongest impression on the minds of those then living, and perhaps preached longer than any one else. Reverend Mr. Nott, son of the venerable Doctor Samuel Nott, of Franklin, and Reverend Mr. Holt, supplied for several months each.

In April, 1832, John N. Whipple, a theological student from Bangor Seminary, began to labor with the church, and was here ordained as an evangelist May 5th, Reverend Philo Judson, of Ashford, preaching the ordination sermon. Mr. Whipple continued in the field until the spring of 1834. He again was acting pastor of the church in 1840-41. One of the fruits of his first ministry was a revival that added 40 persons to the church. He

was the first mover for a new church edifice. His other ministerial service was in Maine, Rhode Island and Ohio, where he died in the town of Lodi, December 29th, 1865.

For the the year 1834-35 Reverend Alvin Underwood was the stated supply, of whose subsequent life and labors nothing has been ascertained.

The years 1835-1840 constitute the second broken period of the history of the church. Reverend Thomas Williams, who had been ordained as "an evangelist to go out as a missionary" in the old church by Windham Association May 16th, 1804, preached during 1838. Mr. Williams died at the home of his son, Reverend N. W. Williams, in Providence, September 29th, 1876, at the great age of 97, giving no indication of disease. He preached for the last time in his 93d year. He was a voluminous author and a man of eminent abilities.

The minutes of the General Association of Connecticut declare the church "vacant" for 1837 and also in 1839.

From July, 1842, to April, 1844, Reverend George Langdon was the acting pastor. He is now living in Lakewood, N. J., preaching as opportunity offers. A licentiate, Isaac C. Day (grandson of Israel), was employed to preach in April, 1846. May 28th, 1847, an ordaining council set him apart to the ministry of the Word, Reverend T. T. Waterman preaching the sermon. From physical causes Mr. Day was compelled shortly to leave the ministry, and is now living in Providence.

May 28th, 1849, Reverend Joseph Ayer was invited to the pulpit left vacant by the retirement of Mr. Day. After supplying over a year, Mr. Ayer accepted a call to settle, and was installed January 22d, 1851, Alvan Bond, D.D., giving the installation sermon. This pastorate closed by the dismissal of Mr. Ayer March 25th, 1856, by a council that convened in the Westfield church. Mr. Ayer's subsequent labors were with the churches at East Lyme, Voluntown and Sterling. He continued to preach till he was 77 years old. He entered into rest from the home of his son (Reverend C. L. Ayer) in Somersville, December 26th, 1875. It was in his pastorate that the creed and covenant of the Westfield church were adopted by this church as its faith and covenant.

The church was now so reduced in numbers and strength that the meeting house was loaned in 1856 to the Free-will Baptists of the place and the vicinity, who organized a church

that maintained its ordinances for ten years ; after which time most of its membership became identified with a new organization—the Free Baptist Union church of Foster, R. I. Believing that its work was not yet done, some friends of the ancient church made the attempt in 1866 to revive its life. Reverend David Breed (now over the church in West Stafford) was engaged to supply the pulpit one year, from April, 1866.

April 1st, 1867, Reverend Ezra D. Kinney became acting pastor. In the summer of his first year the church united with him in an invitation to Reverend John D. Potter to engage in evangelistic service. Mr. Potter came the 4th of August and remained through the 9th, holding 16 meetings and preaching 13 times. His labors were attended with a great blessing, nearly 40 expressing hope in the pardoning mercy of God. From this revival 24 came into the church. April 18th, 1869, Mr. Kinney preached his farewell sermon and then labored for a year at Sayville, L. I., when he removed to Darien, Conn., where he was formerly pastor for 21 years. He died October 2d, 1873, aged 74. He was a large and successful worker in revivals, wrote much for religious newspapers, and was the author of a volume entitled "The Great Supper."

Reverend William W. Atwater was employed as stated supply July 25th, 1869. Pulmonary disease seriously impaired his health in the fall of 1872, and in February of the next year he removed to New Haven and became the librarian of Yale Law School, in which position he died March 14th, 1874.

In June, 1873, Reverend William H. Beard, of Andover, Mass., was engaged as acting pastor. Two seasons of special religious interest have been experienced—the first in the winter and spring of 1880, and the second in the winter and spring of 1887. In 1876 Mr. Beard prepared a centennial sermon from Psalms 48: 12 and 13—"Walk about Zion and go around about her ; tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks ; consider her palaces, that ye may tell it to the generation following,"—giving a comprehensive history of the church. Two Sabbaths—July 16th and 23d—were occupied in its delivery, the people manifesting their appreciation of these historical discourses by a large attendance.

There have been two meeting houses used by this church. The first stood for nearly a century on the north side of the turnpike, a few rods west of the present building. In 1837 the

old church edifice gave way to the present one. When set apart to sacred uses, January 2d, 1838, Reverend Sidney Holman of North Killingly (Putnam Heights), preached the sermon of dedication. This second church has several times undergone repairs. The outlay and changes upon it in the summer of 1868 were sufficient to justify a re-dedication. The ceremony took place August 19th, 1868, Reverend C. L. Ayer preaching the sermon from Exodus 25: 8, and Reverend Ezra D. Kinney offering the prayer of consecration. The bell that has summoned the people together for more than a half century was the gift of Alexander Gaston, the father of ex-Governor Gaston of Massachusetts. For many years he was the principal merchant of the entire region, having his home and place of business near the church.

CHAPTER XXXV.

THE TOWN OF KILLINGLY—(Concluded).

Chestnut Hill.—Baptist Churches.—Cotton Mills.—Elliottville Mills.—Elmville Mills.—Attawaugan Mills.—M. E. Church.—Ballouville.—Dayville.—Manufactories.—Churches.—Societies.—Williamsville.—The Borough of Danielsonville.—Public Works.—Great Freshet.—Schools.—Churches.—Banks.—Music Hall.—Manufacturing Establishments.—Masonic and other Societies.—Newspapers.—Biographical Sketches.

IN the eastern part of the town of Killingly is the locality known as Chestnut hill, or East Killingly, the latter being the post office name, and properly comprehending several other localities within its limits. In this section are several mills and two Baptist churches, which will be noticed in detail separately.

The organization of the first Baptist church dates May 22d, 1776. At that time the membership numbered thirty-two males and twenty-seven females. But little progress was made. A minister was employed for a short time, but about the year 1790 the ordinances of the church were suspended and the effectiveness of the organization weakened. At one time the hand of fellowship was withdrawn by the neighboring churches on account of disorderly proceedings, but on being restored a minister was obtained, and the work went more smoothly forward. A renewal of the covenant was made in 1800, at which six brethren and nine sisters subscribed themselves. The pastoral labors of Reverend Calvin Cooper, which lasted about a year, added about one hundred members to the church. While Reverend Albert Cole was in charge of the church, a revival in 1831 and 1832 added eighty-five members. About seventy more were added as the fruits of a revival which occurred in 1838, under the pastorate of Reverend N. Branch. Reverend James Smither was pastor of the church from 1841 to 1843. During that time sixty-two members were added.

The ministers of this church have been as nearly as can be ascertained as follows: George Robinson, July, 1776, dismissed, 1785; ——— Campbell, a short time; Elders Lamb and John Cooper, 1786 to 1796; Elder Peter Rogers, 1796 to 1803; Calvin Cooper, September, 1805, ordained October 14th, to about 1826, being the longest pastorate the church has ever had; Elder Appleton, between the years 1827 and 1830; Albert Cole, ordained December 1st, 1830, to about 1833; Reverend Jonathan Oatley, May, 1834, one year; Reverend Erastus Duty, 1836; N. Branch, 1838; James Smither, 1841 to 1842; Tubal Wakefield, 1842 to 1844; N. Branch, six months in 1844; Joseph Damon, 1845-46; L. W. Wheeler, 1847 to 1850; Henry Bromley, 1851, for six months; Ebenezer Loomis, 1854; N. Branch, supply, 1855 to April, 1856; Hurley Miner, 1857, about three years; J. Aldrich, 1860 to 1863, ordained January 19th, 1861; H. B. Slater, son of Deacon Silas Slater of this church, September, 1865, to February, 1866; Austin Robbins, April, 1866, to April, 1872; Curtis Kenny, 1874, four months; N. Mathewson, 1876; James Rhea, 1878, a short time; C. B. Rockwell, October, 1879, for one year; Charles Nichols, 1880, one year; William C. Walker, 1882, a few months; Robert H. Sherman, ordained February 14th, 1884, resigned July 5th, 1885. Since that date there has been no regular preaching in the church.

The first house of worship was built at some time previous to 1790. A new meeting house was begun about 1802, and completed in the course of two or three years. The present house of worship was begun in 1834, and completed about 1836, the cost being \$1,400. In 1843 twelve feet was added to its length, and a bell was purchased. In 1882 extensive repairs and improvements were made, including the addition of a baptistery, an expense of \$800. The deacons have been Ephraim Fisk, Jonathan Harrington, Sampson Covil, Silas Slater, Bergen Slater, John A. Randall, Sampson B. Covil, John Murray, E. L. Barstow, Chauncey F. Barstow, Edward R. Oatley and Charles A. White. The church clerks have been N. Aldrich, P. Rowey, Samuel Bullock, N. A. Durfee, Benjamin Brown, Sampson B. Covil, George Pray and E. A. Hill.

A Free Will Baptist church grew out of a union of elements at Foster and Killingly some time previous to 1840. Elder Daniel Williams preached in school houses in both places alternately till circumstances warranted starting a church here. Elder Wil-

liams began preaching about 1825, but did not continue to preach regularly for a long time after the church was built. Land was bought of Susannah Peckham in 1851, and the erection of a meeting house at once begun. The house was 30 by 40 feet on the ground and 15 feet high. It was completed during the year. Pastors Amos Redlon (in 1860), Cheeney, Burlingame, Bradbury, Baker, Isaac H. Coe and one Cortes (about 1865 and again in 1874), have at different times served the church. Elder Childs, the last regular minister, served about four years, up to 1887. Since then this church, with part of the other Baptist society, have sustained preaching part of the time by temporary supplies. They are now supplied by Reverend William H. Beard, of the Congregational church at South Killingly. The membership of the church numbers about one hundred and fifty.

From the heights of Chestnut hill across to the west side of the town, the Whetstone or Chestnut hill stream runs, carrying on its way a number of manufacturing establishments. It is a rapid running stream and in its upper course has a great fall, affording abundant power for driving mills. This has been improved to some extent, but not by any means to its full measure. The stream makes a descent of 175 feet in about a mile, carrying five mills on the way. We shall now notice the different mills on this stream.

The Chestnut Hill Mill stands at the upper end of one of the wildest and most precipitous gorges in the state. It has an available fall of twenty-seven feet. The mill was built about 1846 by Westcott & Pray. It fell into the hands of John Burgess, and afterward into the hands of Mayhew, Miller & Co., of Baltimore, Md. They leased it to Westcott & Pray, who ran it up to 1859. Mayhew Miller, a son of one of the former proprietors, was placed in charge, and continued until 1869. The senior Mr. Pray then, in 1869, bought it back, and Thomas Pray, Jr., ran it five years. The present owner, John L. Ross, took it about 1874, and has run it since that time. Light sheetings, 60 by 52 picks, are made. The mill is fitted with 104 forty-inch looms and 6,000 spindles. About sixty hands are employed, and 25,000 yards a week are turned out. The building is of stone, 36 by 100 feet, four stories high, with two wings, one 49 by 37 feet, two stories, and the other 36 by 40 feet, two stories high. H. H. Hammell is the efficient superintendent.

Scarcely more than a stone's throw below the last mentioned are the Albion Mills, sometimes called Youngs' Mill. Here we find a remarkable fall of seventy-two feet available to this mill. It is devoted to the manufacture of cotton yarns, having 26 cards, 100 looms, 6,000 spindles, two steam boilers, besides two water wheels. The mill is in the hands of trustees—C. L. Tiffany, of New York, J. A. Williams, of Danielsonville; and George D. Handy, superintendent. This mill was one of the first built on this stream, the date of its origin being about 1815. It is owned by the heirs of Ebenezer Young, and has so been operated for years. The main building is about 50 by 75 feet, five floors, and two wings adjoin, one about 50 by 60, four floors, and the other 45 by 60, three stories high.

About one-fourth of a mile below, we come to the Whitestone Mills. This mill was first built by Westcott & Pray in 1858. The stream here affords an available fall of about thirty feet. The building is about 160 by 50 feet, four floors, with a two-story wing about 50 feet long. Connected with it are two stone buildings, each of which is a twelve-tenement house, three stories high. Cotton sheetings and baggings are made here. The mill has 150 looms and 8,032 spindles. Steam is used in connection with water power when necessary. The superintendent is Frank Mitchell.

About one-third of a mile below the last mentioned, we come to the Himes' or Robinson's Mill. This is a building about 160 by 50 feet on the ground, having three floors, and a wing of brick 30 by 40 feet, two stories high. The main mill is built of stone. Cotton is manufactured.

A short distance below are the Valley Mills, a building about 110 by 30 feet, four floors, which has been standing idle for the last year or two. Mr. A. W. Greenslit was superintendent, and the mill was furnished for the manufacture of print cloths, having 174 looms and 6,800 spindles.

This locality is known as Elliottville. A fall of some twenty-four feet is obtained here. A short distance below the last mentioned, we come to the Elliottville Mills of James P. Kendall, of which James Dixon is superintendent. It is a handsome stone building, about 40 by 75 feet, four floors, with a wing 40 by 50 feet, also four floors. Fine cotton yarns and warps are manufactured. The mill has 7,000 spindles.

A space of about two miles intervenes between the last mentioned and the next mill on the stream below. This is Sayles' Mill at Elmville. This is a brick and stone mill of four floors, in size about 40 by 100 feet. It is owned by the Sabin L. Sayles Company, of Dayville, as a branch of their more extensive works at that place.

About one-fourth of a mile below the latter is the Hopkins Mill. This is sometimes called the Exeter Mill. It is owned by Mr. T. E. Hopkins, and is employed in the manufacture of fancy cassimeres. It is furnished with five sets of cards, twenty-four broad looms, 1,680 spindles, and also has a dye house. Besides the water wheel it is provided with two steam boilers for emergency. The factory is a wooden building, about 150 by 40 feet and three stories high.

The Elmville Mills of C. D. & C. S. Chase, which occupy a site about one-fourth of a mile below the last, were started a long time ago. They were owned by Alfred Potter. About twelve years ago the mill was burned, it being a wooden building. A brick mill was then erected, 175 by 50 feet, having three floors. The present company have had possession of the mill since January 1st, 1886. The mill is furnished with four sets of cards and twenty-five broad looms. It has also a dye house. Fancy cassimeres are made. About 80 hands are employed and 150,000 yards annually produced.

The Attawaugan Manufacturing Company have three mills located on Five Mile river, in the northern part of the town of Killingly. Railroad connection is made at Dayville, about two miles below. It was organized in 1859. Mr. H. B. Norton, of Norwich, is president; L. Blackstone, of Norwich, secretary and treasurer, and W. L. Blackstone of the same city, agent. The superintendents are Calvin H. Frisbie and Chancy C. Chace. The company employ in these three mills about five hundred hands, running eight hundred and four looms and thirty-six thousand spindles. The products are fancy dress goods, sheetings, shirtings and cambrics. The president is about eighty years of age, and in possession of remarkable physical and mental vigor and business tact. The treasurer is about seventy-five years of age, and has traveled extensively. The corporation adopts a liberal policy toward its employés.

In the year 1859, Reverend L. B. Bates, as preacher in charge of the West Thompson M. E. church, formed a Methodist class

at Ballouville, and appointed Mr. Elisha Baker leader. The class at one time numbered forty-two members. During the summer of 1870 the Attawaugan Manufacturing Company built a commodious and attractive church edifice, and gave the use of the same to the people of Attawaugan, Ballouville, and the surrounding community for religious purposes. Notwithstanding the fact that the company were members of the Congregational church, Norwich, no denominational preferences were urged. The voice of the people was to decide what order of preaching should be adopted. In the autumn of 1870 this house of divine worship was dedicated with appropriate and impressive services. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Reverend Mr. Meriman, pastor of Second Congregational church, Norwich. The pastors of the evangelical churches in this and in the adjoining villages were present, and assisted in the exercises. Reverend Shadrach Leader represented the M. E. church, being stationed at the time at Danielsonville. The following January a Sunday school was organized, and Mr. Joseph Wheaton, a member of the Baptist church, Putnam, was elected superintendent.

In April, 1871, by request of the people, a preacher was sent by the Providence M. E. Conference, in the person of Reverend Nelson Goodrich. An attempt to organize a Union church proved unsatisfactory, and in March, 1872, the people decided to organize a Methodist Episcopal church in due form, and this decision was immediately carried into execution. The ten members composing it were John Aspinwall, Louisa J. Aspinwall, Elisha Baker, Mary Baker, Amanda A. Baker, Amy A. Baker, John O. Fisher, L. W. S. Fisher, Sarah Whidden and Laura Edwards.

Pastors to this church, beginning with April of each year have been as follows: Reverend W. W. Ellis, 1872-5; J. O. Dodge, 1875; C. Morse, 1876; C. Hammond, 1877; D. J. Griffin, 1878; R. D. Dyson, 1879; D. L. Brown, 1880; W. A. Luce, 1881; S. Sprowls, 1882; E. J. Ayres, 1883; O. A. Farley, 1884-6; William Kirkby, 1886; G. W. Wright, 1887-8; H. H. Moller, 1889. The membership of the church now numbers about one hundred. A Parish Association was formed in 1887, with Chancy C. Chace, president; Mrs. Almond Bosworth and Mrs. Thomas Holt, vice-presidents; and Calvin H. Frisbie, secretary and treasurer. The church building is not in the hands of trustees, but all the property associated with the church, including the church edifice,

Blackstone Hall and a parsonage, are owned by the Attawaugan Manufacturing Company.

Dayville lies in the northwestern part of the town of Killingly, on the Assawaga or Five Mile river. It has a population of about 1,500, and is in general a modern manufacturing village. The Norwich & Worcester railroad has a station here, and by that means this is made the shipping point for several manufacturing villages around, such as Williamsville, Attawaugan, Ballouville, Elmville and Chestnut hill. The railroad station is known as Dayville, but the post office is Killingly. It contains the woolen goods manufactory of the Sabin L. Sayles Company, the principal industrial institution, and two churches.

Business was started up here some forty or fifty years ago. Dayville was then commended for its neat appearance, and for a bridge composed of two finely constructed arches of stone, each 25 feet broad and 12 feet high. Captain John Day sold two-thirds of this privilege to Prosper and William Alexander, and joined with them in building and equipping a cotton factory, in 1832. Caleb Williams, of Providence, purchased the Quinebaug privilege, and erected a handsome building in 1827, at what is now Williamsville. This village started up with fresh vigor on the opening of the railroad. Mr. Ezekiel Webster was prominent in its early building up. He erected a hotel and many private dwellings, engaging also largely in the lumber trade, introducing a steam mill and lumber working machinery.

In 1846 Mr. John Day put up a new brick factory and carried on manufacturing till the destruction of the building in 1858, when the privilege and accommodations were purchased by Messrs. S. and H. Sayles, who built up extensive woolen manufactures. Sabin L. and Harris C. Sayles, of Pascoag, R. I., came here about twenty-five years ago. They began work with two small mills of two sets of carding machinery in each mill. This was on the Whetstone river. The business was enlarged in 1856, and two years later it was burned down. This was in 1858, and in sixty days after the fire a new mill was built by them at Dayville, ready to go to work, and containing four sets of machinery. This mill has been several times enlarged since that time, until it became a thirteen set mill. The growth of the business still requiring additional facilities, a new sixteen set mill was erected, and opened in March, 1883. This is a modern mill building, with model appliances for manufacturing. The new

mill is built of brick, and is 50 by 200 feet in size and five floors high, including one floor in the roof. The old firm of S. & H. Sayles was dissolved in 1879, by the retirement of H. C. Sayles, and in 1882 took the name of the Sabin L. Sayles Company, by the admission of Charles A. Russell into the business, which received a special act of incorporation in 1883, by which its capital stock is fixed at \$200,000. The new corporation received the business and property of the former company in October, 1883. The officers of the new company were: Sabin L. Sayles, president; Charles A. Russell, treasurer; and Benjamin Cogswell, superintendent. The water power for this mill is supplied from a reservoir of 1,300 acres, with a fall of seventeen feet, and a Risdon water wheel of 190 horse power. A Wheelock engine of 175 horse power is kept in reserve for use in emergencies. The works now employ about 250 hands, and use about 500,000 pounds of wool annually, the product amounting to about 325,000 broad yards of cloth. Certain parts of the work are carried over at the Elmville mills, which are run in connection with this establishment.

The Dayville Congregational church was organized May 23d, 1849. Its constituent members were mostly dismissed from the three Killingly churches. The church had at first about thirty-five members, and for a time seemed to prosper. The former pastor of Danielsonville church (Westfield), Reverend Roswell Whitmore, served as pastor until 1857, completing a term of eight and a half years. By a change of the mill owners and the introduction of a new class of population the church suffered a decline. Only three or four of the original members are still living here. After Mr. Whitmore the church was supplied for a while. Reverend Daniel W. Richardson was settled here in the spring of 1862, and was dismissed in the fall of 1865. About that time the church had some seventy members. Reverend F. E. M. Bachelor served the church about two and one-half years. He had also been a supply previous to this time. John H. Melish came in the spring of 1868, and served the church as pastor for three years. In 1871 Mr. Bachelor returned again, remaining this time about two years. Reverend Edward S. Huntress was pastor from about 1879 to 1883. Reverend John Parsons served the church from the spring of 1883 to the fall of 1884. He was followed by Reverend Henry Kimball, who remained from 1884 to the fall of 1888. Reverend Mr. Flint, from Martha's Vine-

yard, commenced his pastorate in June, 1889. The meeting house was built in 1849. A parsonage was built in 1871. The present resident membership of the church numbers about twenty.

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic church stands in the west part of the village. Land for its site was donated by Sabin L. Sayles, the deed for the same being dated November 29th, 1881. The lot contains about three acres, and the church was built upon it soon after the date of the deed. This section was at first made a mission of the Danielsonville church. The first priest established here was Father Thomas Ariens, who had a parochial residence built about 1882. About the year 1886 the pastor was changed and Father T. J. Dunn took charge. He remains at the present time.

Marvin Waite Post, No. 51, G. A. R., was organized June 23d, 1880, with thirty-five charter members. It was named in honor of a son of Hon. John T. Waite, who held the office of lieutenant and was killed in the battle of Antietam. The post was organized in Dayville, and its first officers were: Albert W. Burgess, com.; James H. Rice, S. V. C.; James Adams, J. V. C.; Albert A. Arnold, adjt.; Thomas W. Stevenson, O. of D. The following have served successively as commanders of the post: Albert W. Burgess, 1880-81; James Rice, 1882; Thomas Stevenson, 1883; Newton Phillips, 1884-85; Henry E. Baker, 1886; Jabez R. Bowen, 1887; Alexander Bryson, 1888; Caleb Blanchard, 1889. The present membership is about thirty-five. The post meets in G. A. R. Hall in Webster's building. A Woman's Relief Corps, No. 31, is attached to it. This was organized in March, 1888. Miss Elizabeth M. Sayles has been president of it since its organization.

Assawaga Lodge, No. 20, A. O. U. W. (Ancient Order of United Workmen) was instituted at Dayville May 29th, 1883, with nineteen charter members. The first officers were: Day F. Lovett, past master workman; Charles J. Sweet, master workman; Newton Phillips, foreman; W. P. Kelly, receiver; Eugene Peck, overseer; F. W. Bennett, recorder; F. H. Cummings, financier. Successive master workmen have been: Charles J. Sweet, 1883; F. W. Bennett, 1884-85; Calvin H. Frisbie, 1886; A. H. Bosworth, 1887; Doctor H. L. Hammond, 1888; Charles E. Young, 1889. The present membership is about eighty. The lodge is in a flourishing condition. It has lost

two members by death—Charles J. Sweet and Benjamin Cogswell, the families of each of whom received \$2,000 benefit from the lodge.

John Lyon Lodge, No. 45, Knights of Pythias, was organized at Dayville February 27th, 1888, with fifty members at the commencement. The lodge was named after Past Grand Chancellor Lyon, of the state, who had then recently died. The first officers were: H. L. Hammond, P. C.; W. H. Edwards, C. C.; John B. Tucker, V. C.; G. E. King, P.; James Purnett, M. of E.; E. M. Randall, M. of F.; F. J. Sayles, K. of R. & S.; George S. Brown, M. of A.; N. E. Bowen, I. G.; H. M. Burgess, O. G. The officers for the term beginning July, 1888, were: C. A. Stokes, C. C.; George S. Brown, V. C.; H. F. Harrington, P. Officers beginning January, 1889, were: George S. Brown, C. C.; H. F. Harrington, V. C., to May 7th, 1889, when he resigned and Thomas Richmond was elected in his stead; Fred. A. Hopkins, P. The lodge has a nicely furnished hall in Sayles' Building, called Pythian Hall. The furniture and equipments, including a cabinet organ, cost about \$600, and the lodge has a financial showing of \$900 in bank. It is in a prosperous condition, and the membership has now reached about seventy. Mr. H. S. Garcelon, of this lodge, is District D. G. C. for the Thirteenth district, which includes Danielsonville, Dayville and Putnam. The membership of the lodge includes nearly all the business men of the village and vicinity, including congressman Charles A. Russell and others of wide reputation.

Division No. 1, of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, was organized in May, 1888. The following officers were then elected, and they remain to the present time unchanged; William Pendergast, president; Henry Quinn, vice-president; Philip Moffatt, recording secretary; John J. Quinn, financial secretary; Peter Flinn, treasurer. The present membership of the lodge is about twenty.

At Williamsville on the Quinebaug, in the western border of the town, is a factory village, the initial factory of which was erected by Caleb Williams in 1827. That first mill was what is now the north wing of the mill, in size 144 by 44 feet and four stories high. After Williams the mill was owned by S. & W. Foster. In 1849 they formed a corporation composed of Samuel and William Foster and John Atwood. The company has remained to the present time, except that some of the owner-

ship has passed to the heirs of individual owners. The original Samuel Foster, however, is still the president and treasurer of the company. H. C. Atwood is now secretary and assistant treasurer. The present main building is 417 feet long by 49 feet wide and four stories high. Of the length of the building 165 feet was built in 1860, and the remaining 252 feet length was built in 1876. The entire building, old and new, is of stone. It contains 600 looms and 23,000 spindles. Cotton shirtings are manufactured. Water is used, and four steam boilers stand ready to do the work when the four water wheels fail to furnish power sufficient. H. C. Atwood is the superintendent of the works. The village which surrounds the mill belongs to the company. There are 105 tenements. A building for school and church has been built by the company for the village. A school is kept by the district in the basement, and the upper room is used for a church. The building was erected about 1868.

A Congregational church was organized here June 4th, 1883, with about thirty members. The first minister serving as pastor was Reverend E. S. Huntress, who served the church up to February, 1884. He was followed by Reverend A. C. Hurd, who came in May, 1884, and stayed till October, 1885. Reverend O. D. Hine began his ministry in December, 1885, and remains to the present time. The church has at present about thirty-five members. The Sunday school in connection with it numbers about sixty.

The borough of Danielsonville was created by an act of assembly in May, 1854. The boundaries given in the charter are as follows, comprising parts of the towns of Killingly and Brooklyn: "Beginning at a stake and stones southeast of the Kies tavern, so called, thence north $19\frac{1}{4}$ degrees east, four hundred and twenty-five rods, to a heap of stones on the north side of the road leading east from the house of David Fisher; thence north 67 degrees west, two hundred and four rods to a white oak tree on the north side of the road leading from Westfield to the house of Jacob Danielson, a little east of the bridge over Five Mile river; thence north $52\frac{3}{4}$ degrees west, thirty-eight rods on the north side of said road to a turn in the same; thence north 70 degrees west, eighty rods, to a heap of stones by a wall in Jacob Danielson's meadow; thence south $18\frac{3}{4}$ degrees west, four hundred and seventy-three rods and twelve links, to a stake

and stones eight rods southwest of the Cundall barn; thence south $71\frac{3}{4}$ degrees east, three hundred and seven rods and five links, to the first mentioned bound." The officers of the borough were to consist of a warden, six burgesses, a clerk, treasurer and bailiff, to be annually chosen on the second Monday in April. By the terms of the charter the first meeting of the borough was held at Rothwell's Hall, July 8th, 1854. Rothwell's Hall is now C. H. Bacon's furniture store.

In form the borough is nearly square; the easterly line is 425 rods long, the westerly line 473 rods, the southerly line 307 rods, and the northerly line 322 rods. It contains 883 acres, including ponds, rivers and all surfaces. The total length of streets in the borough is nine miles and seventy-four rods, all but 289 rods of which are on the Killingly side. In July, 1868, the legislature amended the charter so as to give the borough the supervision of street repairs, but in May, 1881, this right was relinquished to the towns. The streets were first named by the borough authorities May 22d, 1862, and the sidewalks laid out and established. The borough hall was built in May, 1868, at a cost of \$2,700, the lot on which it stood costing \$300 additional. The growth of the borough may be inferred from the following statistics. The number of houses and amount of taxable property in the borough at different dates have been as follows: 1855, 195, \$176,680; 1862, 216, \$225,156; 1867, 248, \$862,589; 1870, 299, \$1,104,426; 1875, 341, \$1,131,895; 1880, 367, \$1,129,563; 1884, 378, \$1,215,786; 1889, 428, \$1,350,110. There are in the borough forty-seven buildings, exclusive of dwellings, used as stores, school houses, churches, mills, shops and manufactories. In 1861 the population of the borough was 2,190. In 1885 it was 3,215. Of the last number the population on the Brooklyn side was 1,140, while that of the Killingly side was 2,075. Of the population of the borough Americans number 1,866, and French number 1,346. Of the Americans there are 267 on the Brooklyn side and 1,599 on the Killingly side. Of the French population there are 873 on the Brooklyn side, and 476 on the Killingly side. Of the American population in the borough there are 831 males and 1,035 females. Of the French population there are 582 males and 767 females. Of the American population 674 are under 21 years of age, and of the French population 872 are under 21 years of age.

The wardens of the borough have been as follows: George Danielson, 1854; A. D. Lockwood, 1855; Horatio Webb, 1856-61;

W. C. Tucker, 1862; E. L. Cundall, 1863-64; Samuel Hutchins, 1865; L. H. Rickard, 1866; Abner Young, 1867-68; Anthony Ames, 1869; B. F. Chapman, 1870-71; George Leavens, 1872-73; E. R. Burlingame, 1874; L. H. Rickard, 1875-76; B. A. Bailey, 1877; Anthony Ames, 1878; L. H. Rickard, 1879; Thomas J. Evans, 1880; William H. Chollar, 1881; M. P. Dowe, 1882; Joshua Perkins, 1883-85; George Jencks, 1886; Frederick A. Jacobs, 1887; Sidney W. Crofut, 1888-89.

The borough clerks have been as follows: Amasa Dowe, 1854-56; Joshua Perkins, 1857-62; O. P. Jacobs, 1863-68; M. P. Dowe, 1869-71; C. N. Capron, 1872-75; C. H. Keach, 1876-80; E. L. Palmer, 1881-87; C. C. Young, 1888-89. The borough treasurers were William B. Tobey, 1854-55; William B. Knight, 1856-57; Joshua Perkins, 1858-62; O. P. Jacobs, 1863-68; M. P. Dowe, 1869-71; H. N. Clemons, 1872-73; C. N. Capron, 1874-75; C. H. Keach, 1876-80; E. L. Palmer, 1881-87; C. C. Young, 1888-89.

The borough at a very early date gave attention to protecting its people and their property against accidental fires. It was voted October 16th, 1854, that a fire engine should be purchased. The engine was purchased in Troy, N. Y., March 19th, 1855, at a cost of \$990, and the burgesses named it the "Quinebaug." April 4th, 1855, the borough voted to purchase 500 feet of leather hose at 80 cents a foot. Minnetexit Fire Company was organized July 11th, 1855, and the name of the engine was changed to "Minnetexit," to correspond. A hook and ladder company was organized August 15th, 1855, with ten ladders and hooks, and the borough voted to purchase 300 feet of leather hose. Trucks for ladders and hooks were purchased in July, 1873, at a cost of \$500. The steam fire engine, "Gen. Putnam," was purchased March 14th, 1878, of the Silsby Manufacturing Co., of Seneca Falls, N. Y., at a cost of \$3,550.

In order to provide means for the successful operation of this apparatus the borough voted to build ten cisterns, August 21st, 1866; and September 15th, 1882, voted to build two more on the Brooklyn side, the first ten being on the Killingly side. These were built in the following locations: 1. Corner Mechanic and Academy streets; 2. Main street near Congregational church; 3. Main street near Logee's bakery; 4. Corner Main and North streets, near B. F. Chapman's; 5. Corner Mechanic and Oak streets, near William A. Chase's; 6. Reynolds street, near Thomas Bradford's; 7. Cottage street, near Bond street, near Loren Bates'; 8.

Corner Furnace and Franklin streets, near M. V. Woodworth's; 9. Broad street, near Christian hill; 10. Corner Winter and Spring streets, near Anthony Ames'; 11. Main street (Brooklyn side), near J. K. Green's; 12. Same street, near William Chapman's. No. 1 contained 447 hogsheads and cost about \$500. The remaining eleven had each a capacity of 250 hogsheads, and cost \$300 each. The borough is about to be supplied with water by the Crystal Water Company, of Boston, who are now at work putting in the pipes to supply the streets with water. A conduit from a reservoir, about three miles northeast of the borough, brings water down to the village, and another reservoir, on a hill near the village, is being constructed for high pressure purposes, to be used in cases of fire. This will give a pressure of seventy-five pounds to the square inch at the railroad crossing on Main street.

Street lights were established in May, 1882. The lamps and lamp posts, ninety-four in number, cost \$7.25 each, and are owned by the borough. The burners are owned by the Globe Gas Light Company, who hold patents upon them. The lamps are lighted by this company for six cents per burner per night, for twenty nights every month. The Quinebaug Company owns and lights six gas lamps for the borough on the same terms, making a round hundred lamps lighted at the expense of the borough. Electric lights are now being talked of, and negotiations are pending which will probably give the borough the benefit of them very soon, perhaps by the time this work comes into the hands of its readers.

The village is named after a Mr. Danielson who built a grist mill at this place many years ago, some notice of which has already been given in another chapter. The present village is the growth of but half a century. In that time it has gained a remarkable degree of maturity. Its streets are well laid out, handsomely shaded and lined with neat and home-like residences, though but few of them are gorgeous in appearance. Upon the completion of the Norwich & Worcester railroad the depot became the central point about which the village was destined to grow up. Business and manufacturing began on the opposite side of the river, but came over to the railway station, where now we find a large number of stores, churches, hotels, banks and other institutions. The principal industrial support of the village is its manufacturing interest.

The largest establishment in this line, the Quinebaug mills, it is said furnishes the means of support for about one-third of the inhabitants of the village. The Quinebaug here is a powerful stream, and the Assawaga joins it at this point, in the lower part of the village. Very substantial bridges have been built over these streams at this place. An iron bridge over the Quinebaug was built a few years since, at a cost of about \$9,000, the expense of which was divided between the towns of Killingly and Brooklyn. Mr. Ezekiel R. Burlingame was first selectman at the time and was instrumental in having it built. A stone arch bridge was built over the Assawaga, near its junction with the Quinebaug, at a cost of \$5,000. This bridge was completed in the early part of 1889.

In the great flood of 1886 this town did not suffer so heavily as some other towns did, but the event was one which is not soon to be forgotten. An account given at the time draws the following picture:

"As long as they live, the youngest people of the present generation will never forget the exciting experiences of the great freshet of February, 1886. Early Friday evening the pouring warm rain upon the large amount of snow on the streets of the village, and the fields and roads in the vicinity, brought apprehension of a severe freshet to many minds, especially to the agents and others connected with the manufacturing corporations. By 10 o'clock Main street and the sidewalks were a river. At the corner of Spring street and near the Monument the water was high enough to cover rubber boots, and pedestrians who were out at that late hour reached their homes in the west part of the village with difficulty. Saturday morning the walks on either side of Main street were covered with light clay that must have come from a considerable distance.

"At early daylight a tide of people began to move toward the iron bridges across the Five Mile river, where the mad rushing waters seemed bent on the greatest possible amount of damage. Hundreds of people were at this spot all day, and one seemed fascinated as the surging tide rushed against the abutments and swept in a wild current over the dam, then under the bridges and dashed against the rocky impediments below. One crowd would leave the spot and move on to the Quinebaug river, where even a more fascinating spectacle would meet the eyes of the spectators, only leaving space for other groups; and so the pro-

cession kept passing through the day. The mills were stopped on account of back water, and in fact business of all kinds seemed to be suspended in the village for the day.

"Early in the day Selectman Burlingame sent a party out for two long timbers, and these were joined to the upper iron bridge by heavy chains, and this precaution was not taken any too soon, for in a few hours one side of that bridge began to settle. These heavy timbers alone saved it, and probably both, for if one had gone the other would probably have followed it. The loss will be only hundreds of dollars instead of thousands by this timely move.

"In the Quinebaug river the volume of water was immense, and as cakes of ice, wood and other heavy things struck the piers and embankments of that long bridge, there seemed danger that it might succumb to the furious assault, and that communication between Danielsonville and Brooklyn people—who have so many interests in common—would be imperiled for a season. And the danger began to be more imminent as the waters began to make a perceptible breach in the northwest embankment. By evening half of this embankment, reaching back more than a dozen feet, had been swept away, and the north side of the bridge hung over the river without any apparent support. The break, however, stopped, and the bridge is saved, to the surprise and gratification of the people of both towns. About noon, Saturday, the foot bridge across the Quinebaug river, belonging to the Quinebaug Company, after quivering for a time from the attack of ice, etc., gave way, and the debris went on its rapid course toward Long Island Sound. Water entered the old Tiffany Mill, belonging to the Quinebaug Company, until it was nearly three feet deep in the first story."

Great interest has been taken in the public schools of this village. Two graded schools are in operation, one in each town. Commodious brick buildings have been erected, one in each district. The borough on the east side of the Quinebaug is District No. 1, of Killingly, while that part of the borough which lies west of the river is No. 9, of Brooklyn. In the former there are about 537 scholars, and in the latter 347. The school in No. 1 is accommodated in a handsome brick building, built in the summer of 1871 at a cost of about \$25,000. A high school, which is carried on in this building, belongs to the whole town, and receives pupils from any district in the town without charge. The

high school was opened December 6th, 1871, and the first class graduated from it in 1872. Up to the present time the total number of graduates has been 119. This school, including the graded school connected with it in the same building, employs ten teachers. The school in District No. 9, in Brooklyn, has an attendance of about three hundred, and employs five teachers. The building is a handsome brick structure, and was erected about the same time or a little previous to the other. The capacity of these schools is hardly sufficient for the growth of the village, but they will be relieved by the opening of the Catholic parochial school, which is to accommodate a large percentage of the foreign population.

Under the supposition that the remnant of the church which had worshipped in the Breakneck meeting house would recognize and allow their minister to hold services in it, some enterprising persons built a meeting house in the western part of Killingly, in 1798. But being disappointed in their expectations, they proceeded to organize a church in the western locality and cut loose from the old church. Doctor Penuel Hutchins and Mr. Robert Howe gave the building site for this new house. The organization of the church was effected by a council, of which Reverend Josiah Whitney was moderator, August 25th, 1801. It was called the Church of West Killingly. The following were its constituent members: Zadoc Spalding, Boaz Stearns, Abigail Stearns, Zadoc Hutchins, James Danielson, Penuel Hutchins, Samuel Stearns, Shubael Hutchins, Elizabeth Hutchins, Mary Stearns, Sarah L. Danielson, Hannah Spalding and Anna Kies. The first pastor of the church was Gordon Johnson of Farmington, ordained December 12th, 1804. It made but slow advances for several years. The only additional members during its first eleven years of existence were the pastor and four women.

Mr. Johnson was dismissed from the pastorate in 1809. His successor, Reverend Roswell Whitmore, son of an old Killingly family that had removed to Ashford, was ordained January 13th, 1813. Mr. Whitmore was a man of much life and energy, ready to engage in any form of Christian labor, and the church was rapidly built up. James Danielson and Shubael Hutchins were installed deacons in March, 1813. For many years the church increased in proportion to the growth of the surrounding villages, and enjoyed many seasons of special religious interest.

Its Sabbath school was among the oldest in the county, being organized and well established in 1820. Isaac T. Hutchins, one of some fifty converts who joined the church that year, was elected superintendent. Testaments furnished by the town Bible society served for text book and library. The sessions were chiefly occupied in reciting Scripture verses that had been committed to memory. The revival of 1832 brought into this church about one hundred and fifty members. Adam B. Danielson and Warren Stearns were chosen deacons in 1828. The various benevolent societies connected with this church were well sustained. Mr. Whitmore retained the pastorate until May 2d, 1843. He was succeeded by Reverend Thomas O. Rice, ordained January 1st, 1845, and dismissed March 25th, 1856. Reverend Thomas T. Waterman was installed as pastor here January 18th, 1858, and dismissed January 30th, 1861. Reverend William W. Davenport was ordained August 21st, 1861, dismissed September 30th, 1868. Reverend Jeremiah Taylor was installed May 12th, 1869, and dismissed December 30th, 1871. Reverend Adelbert F. Keith was installed October 13th, 1874, and dismissed May 15th, 1877. Reverend James Dingwell has been pastor from December 1st, 1877, to the present time.

Stowell L. Weld, William H. Chollar and John Waldo were elected deacons March 27th, 1862. Elisha Danielson was elected deacon April 13th, 1866; John D. Bigelow December 28th of the same year; and Joseph W. Stone January 13th, 1875. The second meeting house, the present house of worship, was built in 1855.

A new pipe organ, costing about \$4,000, was put into the church in 1887. A parsonage was built about the year 1876. The present membership of the church is about 350.

The beginnings of the Methodist Episcopal church of Danielsonville are traced to the little workshop of a shoemaker, who located in this neighborhood when the village was yet in its early infancy. Attracted by the sign of this artisan, an itinerant preacher on his rounds called to ask a night's lodging. Thus, in the autumn of 1839, Reverend John Lovejoy, while on his way from Lowell to New London, was the guest of Marcus Childs, and here he preached and formed a class. The names of those enrolled in this class were Edwin Dunlap, Julia J. Dunlap (wife of the former), Hearty Douglass, Chloe Childs and Fidelia Frizzell. A tradition is also preserved that Reverend

Mr. Lovejoy had once, as early as the year 1830, preached in a house belonging to Jared Brainard, which stood near the old "Furnace Lot." Of the progress of this early class little is known, but in September, 1840, Reverend Hezekiah Thatcher, of the Plainfield circuit, preached and formed a class of thirteen members, whose names were as follows: Edwin Dunlap (who was appointed leader), Julia J. Dunlap, Hearty Douglass, Jared Brainard, Maria Brainard, Parmelia Brainard, Othniel Young, Eliza Young, Harriet Young (later the wife of John H. Keech), Mary Young, Marcus Childs, Chloe Childs and John H. Keech. Calvin Brainard, Charles H. Brainard and a Miss Cummings joined it soon after. Edwin Dunlap, the first leader, continued in that position, with the exception of about one year, until his death, which took place October 26th, 1873.

Reverend Hezekiah Thatcher, who formed the class, was engaged in fulfilling a contract to carry the mail from Plainfield to Canterbury, and while in the discharge of that duty, on the 4th of July, 1841, while in the act of crossing the railroad, just above the Plainfield depot, he was struck by the locomotive, and received injuries from which he died, after lingering in an unconscious condition about twenty-four hours.

Previous to June, 1842, Reverend Azariah B. Wheeler of Plainfield, and Reverend Stephen Hammond preached here more or less regularly to the Methodist people, services being held in a school house, which has since been converted into a dwelling house, standing on the corner of Furnace and Cottage streets. Later meetings were held in the "Conference room," and in a freight house and in "Tavern Hall." While using the freight house for meetings a great revival was experienced, and some sixty persons were converted. The name of Reverend Stephen Hammond is mentioned with great respect in connection with the early history of this church. He was a practical blacksmith living at Pomfret, and being a local preacher, served this church with unselfish devotion, earnest effort and but very insignificant financial compensation.

Steps were now taken toward the erection of a house of worship. Captain Samuel Reynolds offered a very eligible site, which was accepted, and the erection of the house commenced, under the efficient direction of General L. E. Baldwin, now of Willimantic. The contract being made July 4th, 1842, the building was completed, and dedicated on the 30th of September fol-

lowing. The whole cost, amounting to \$3,200, was provided for in advance by the sale of slips and voluntary subscriptions. This house is still in use by the church, occupying its original site. The church was organized in 1842, while the circuit was in charge of Reverend George May. The house of worship was enlarged in 1851, and in the following year a vestry was finished under the west end of the building. At that time the membership reached one hundred and sixty-seven. During the years 1867 and 1868 the church was repaired and a new bell was added, the expense of all amounting to about eight thousand five hundred dollars. The membership at that time had increased to one hundred and eighty-five. A parsonage was built on the church lot about 1873, and a pipe organ added to the furniture of the church about the same time. The cost of the former was nearly four thousand dollars and the value of the latter about one thousand.

At the anniversary of the first forty years of existence of this church, which was celebrated with much enthusiasm in 1882, it was learned that during the period spoken of the church had raised for church and benevolent purposes \$59,250. It had gained a church property valued at \$18,500; organized an adult missionary society in 1848, and a juvenile society in the following year; raised for missionary uses \$3,179.56; paid into the treasury of the American Bible Society enough to give more than a thousand Bibles to the destitute; gathered over seven hundred children into the Sabbath school, the number at one time swelling as high as three hundred; had eight hundred conversions under its care; received six hundred and ninety members to its communion, the greatest membership at any one time being two hundred and twenty-four. The pastors during this period were as follows; 1841, Stephen W. Hammond; 1842, George May; 1843-4, John Howson; 1845-6, Benjamin C. Philps; 1847-8, John Livsey; 1849-50, Samuel W. Coggeshall; 1851-2, Sidney W. Dean; 1852, Henry S. White; 1853-4, Lorenzo Dow Bentley; 1855-6, W. S. Simmons; 1857-8, Lorenzo W. Blood; 1859-60, George W. Brewster; 1861-2, Anthony Palmer; 1863-4, Carlos Banning; 1865-6, William H. Stetson; 1867-8, George W. Brewster; 1869, Norris G. Lippitt; 1870-71, Shadrach Leader; 1872-4, George E. Fuller; 1875-6, George W. Anderson; 1877, Norris G. Lippitt; 1878, S. Olin Benton; 1879, R. W. C. Farnsworth; 1880-81, Robert Clark;

1882-85, Joseph H. James ; 1885-87, John Oldham ; 1887-89, F. L. Hayward ; 1889, G. A. Morse.

Services according to the Episcopal forms were held in a hall for some time previous to 1863. Reverend Mr. Wellman officiated in this missionary work. Reverend Charles C. Adams followed him, about 1864, remaining until 1866, during which time steps were taken to obtain a house of worship. The West Killingly Academy, an institution which had been blessed with but a limited degree of prosperity and was now for sale, was purchased of the proprietors by John V. Lewis, July 31st, 1865, for \$1,400, including about three-fourths of an acre of ground. It stood where it now stands, at the head of Academy street, and on the east side of Broad street. The lot and building were transferred from Lewis to C. C. Adams, December 2d, 1865, for \$1,300 ; and by the latter it was transferred to the Trustees of Donations and Bequests for the use and benefit of the First Ecclesiastical Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the town of Killingly known as St. Albans' church, December 21st, 1866, for the sum of \$3,000. By this time the church was in good working order, and the building was probably occupied during that year, the necessary changes and improvements in the interior having been made. Reverend W. N. Ackley officiated as rector from 1866 to 1870. He was followed by Reverend George Coggeshall, whose term of service extended from December, 1870, to July, 1871. Reverend Alfred S. Rice commenced his service here in June, 1872, and continued for a year or two. He was followed by Reverend Arthur T. Parsons, of whose coming we have not the date. He closed his pastorate about 1882, and then for about two years the church was without a pastor. Reverend George R. Warner became rector in July, 1884, and remained until May, 1889. He was followed in June, 1889, by Reverend Cornelius G. Bristol, of Milford, Conn. The church at present has about eighty communicants.

The Baptist church of Danielsonville has a handsome Gothic and Queen Anne house of worship on the corner of Broad and Academy streets. The church was organized February 5th, 1874. Sometime in the April preceding, Reverend R. Turnbull, D. D., superintendent of the work of the Connecticut Baptist State Convention, visited Danielsonville in company with Reverend Charles Willett, who had shortly before closed his pastorate of the Baptist church in Putnam; the purpose of their visit

being to decide on the advisability of organizing a church. They decided that much had been lost already on account of delay, and that steps should be immediately taken to gather the Baptists together and form a society.

Liberty Hall, conveniently located on Oak street, was secured, and the first meeting was held May 11th, 1873, at which Doctor Turnbull preached. A good congregation was in attendance and by a nearly unanimous vote decided that they desired a Baptist church, and a committee consisting of Henry Westcott, Daniel G. Sherman, William M. Johnson and W. W. Woodward, was appointed to secure a place for meeting and make all necessary arrangements for regular services. For this purpose the hall already mentioned was obtained. Doctor Turnbull preached again the following Sunday, and after that the work was left to the care of Reverend Mr. Willett, who preached Sundays and hunted up Baptists during the week. The mission proved very successful, and on February 5th, 1874, at a meeting called for the purpose, forty-two persons constituted themselves a Baptist church. At a subsequent meeting March 5th, 1874, the following officers were elected: W. W. Woodward, clerk; Henry Westcott, William Johnson and H. A. Brown, prudential committee; and on March 25th, the church was publicly recognized as a Baptist church, by a council composed of delegates from the Baptist churches of East Killingly, Putnam, Brooklyn, Willimantic, Packerville, Union Plainfield, and the following ministers, who were present by special invitation: Reverends R. Turnbull, D. D., Hartford; J. P. Brown, New London; R. Bennett and C. P. Borden, Central Thompson; and J. W. Dick, Woodstock. The recognition sermon was preached by Reverend John Davies, of Norwich, and the prayer of recognition was by Reverend T. Terry, of Brooklyn.

From the time of its organization the growth of the church has been steady and substantial, there having been additions to its membership every year of its existence. The present membership is about two hundred. It has had but three pastors. Reverend Charles Willett continued as missionary pastor until March 28th, 1875. Reverend William C. Carr was called to the pastorate in June, 1875, began his labors October 10th, and was ordained November 11th. His pastorate continued until May 6th, 1883. In October of the same year Reverend F. L. Knapp,

the present pastor, was called, and commenced his work with the church on January 6th, 1884.

The church continued to worship in Liberty Hall until May 4th, 1879, when the present house was dedicated. The building is a very attractive and convenient structure, and seats 350. It has two vestries, one of which can be readily opened into the audience room, giving an additional capacity of about 150. The house is also supplied with baptismal font, robing rooms, etc. It has two beautiful memorial windows, one contributed by Mr. H. F. and Miss A. E. Westcott, in memory of their father and mother, Henry and Almira Westcott. There is also a beautiful window contributed by the Sunday school.

Special mention should be made in this connection of Mr. Henry Westcott, without whose hearty interest and liberal gifts the church would hardly have been organized or its attractive house have been built. His death occurred before the house was completed, but not until he had contributed fully one-half of the entire cost. Shortly after his death, in a letter to the annual meeting of the Ashford Baptist Association, occurs this testimony: "From the first, he, more than anyone else has borne our young church upon his heart, and supported it with his influence, his sympathy and his means, and his loss is more to us than we can express in words."

The Second Advent church was organized in 1858, as the result of a protracted meeting, held by Elders Miles Grant, of Boston, and S. G. Mathewson, who came to this place at the invitation of Doctor Daniel Jones. Soon after this a man by the name of Brown built a chapel for the sect. This was located on Winter street, and is now a part of the St. James Catholic church, the building being sold soon after the death of Mr. Brown. The church after that held services in Rothwell Hall for a time. In 1866 the present chapel on Academy street was built, under the direction and by efforts of Elder H. F. Carpenter, who was pastor of the church at two different times. Elders William Fenn, James Hemenway, Marshall Phettyplace, C. W. Dockham, W. N. Tenney and A. S. Williams have served the church as pastors, and a considerable part of the time the church has had temporary supplies for a few Sundays at a time. Elder Dockham was pastor three years, closing his labors November 2d, 1884. He was succeeded by Elder W. N. Tenney, who served from December 5th, 1884, to May 2d, 1886. Elder A. S. Williams was

pastor from December 1st, 1886, to April 1888. The membership of the church, reaching nearly one hundred at one time, has been reduced by death and removals, until it is now only about thirty-five. Several notable revivals have visited the church, an important one being conducted by Mrs. E. L. Crumb, ten or twelve years ago.

St. James' Roman Catholic church had its beginning here in the labors of Father McCabe, a Franciscan monk from Ireland, who was the pioneer priest of this county. Jesuit missionaries from Boston had visited this region occasionally, passing through perhaps two or three times a year, and saying mass in the towns on the way. The mission of Father McCabe extended beyond this county as far as Colchester. He began his work here in 1851. The first mass said by Father McCabe was in a house on Franklin street, by Five Mile river. Afterward services were held in Bacon's Hall. Father McCabe died in Danielsonville, about 1863. John Quinn succeeded him as pastor of this church. Father Quinn made his residence at Moosup, and this church then became a mission. The Second Advent chapel, and the lot upon which it stood, were private property, and were now purchased by Father Quinn, of Sally D. Brown, August, 29th, 1864, and that became the nucleus of St. James' church, as it is to-day, the Advent chapel being the transept of the present structure. The front part of the building was added during the pastorate of Father Quinn, who also bought additional land adjoining on the north, of Elisha Chamberlin, July 3d, 1869. This extended to the corner of Hutchins and Mechanic streets, and the parochial residence was soon after built upon it by Father Quinn. In September, 1869, Father Princen, a Belgian priest, followed as parish priest of St. James. The cemetery ground, comprising several acres, a short distance northwest of the church, was bought by Father Quinn, and in November, 1870, this and the church lots were transferred by him to St. James' Catholic church. Father Princen built the sanctuary and vestry to the church. He remained here until his death, which occurred in April, 1883. Father Preston (Thomas J.) began his pastorate in 1883, and is still in charge. He has had the church remodelled and renovated, and in 1886 cleared of a debt amounting to about \$6,000, since which time the church has been free of debt. He has had erected at a cost of about \$11,000, includ-

ing lot, a building for a parochial school. The lot, which contains about two and one-half acres, was purchased of Betsey H. Ely, March 7th, 1877. A handsome building, two story and mansard roof, has been erected upon it, and the school will open in September, 1889. Six teachers, besides the principal, will be employed, and the school will accommodate about 350 pupils. It will be conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph. All the modern languages will be taught, as well as fancy work, drawing and music. English will be the prominent language in the school. Protestant children will be admitted free to the common branches as well as Catholic children, and to the higher branches and the languages by the payment of the necessary fees.

There are in the parish of St. James about 1,300 French Canadians and 500 Irish. Hampton and Brooklyn are both missions of this church. Mass is said in the town hall at the latter place. Another mission is maintained at Chestnut hill, where there are about 150 French and a few Irish. Mass is said there in a hall. In Brooklyn and Hampton missions there are about 250 Irish. There are connected with the church several societies. A St. John Baptist Society numbers about 100; a society of the Knights of Columbus has 53 members; the Children of Scapular Society numbers 60; the society of the Children of Mary has about 70 young ladies; a St. Ann's Society has 51 members; a St. Alyosious Society contains a membership of 40; and an Infant Jesus Society contains about 150 children.

The First National Bank of Killingly was organized in 1864. It commenced business June 2d, of that year, with a capital of \$55,000. It commenced its banking business September 1st, 1864. Its officers then were Hon. Elisha Carpenter, president, and H. N. Clemons, cashier. It soon doubled its capital, making its limit \$110,000, which remains unchanged at the present time. The first board of directors were Elisha Carpenter, Arnold Fenner, Henry Hammond, Abner Young, William Dyer, Harvey S. Bartlett, Edwin Ely, George Leavens, John Atwood. The president of the bank was the same as at the beginning until September 13th, 1864, when he removed to Hartford, and Arnold Fenner was elected to take his place. He continued as president till January 10th, 1871. From that date to the present time, Henry Hammond has filled the position. The office of cashier has suffered no change from the beginning. The pres-

ent board of directors are Henry Hammond, Abner Young, Silas Hyde, H. N. Clemons, William H. Chollar, William A. Johnson, Lorin Bates, R. R. James, T. E. Hopkins. July 2d, 1888, the bank paid its forty-fifth dividend. Up to that time it had paid to its stockholders in dividends \$220,000, just double the amount of its capital. The amount of its deposits November 3d, 1888, was \$112,322.32. The bank occupies elegant rooms in the Music Hall building, on the second floor, over the post office.

Windham County Savings Bank was incorporated in May, 1864. Its incorporators were William James, George Danielson, Edwin Ely, Orville M. Capron, Hezekiah L. Danielson, Samuel Reynolds, Horatio Webb, Willard Leavens, Freeman James, Edwin Dunlap, Henry Hammond, John Snow, Jr., William Alexander, Marvin A. Dexter, Amos D. Lockwood, Daniel P. Tyler, Elisha Danielson, William B. Wright, Lysander Warren, William Humes, Frederick P. Coe, Henry Hutchins. The first officers, elected July 26th, 1864, were: William James, president; Henry N. Clemons, secretary and treasurer. The president continued in office till July 11th, 1870, when George Danielson was elected to that office. He was followed by William H. Chollar, July 29th, 1875. Hezekiah Danielson was made president August 3d, 1875. John G. Bigelow became president July 10th, 1876, continuing until he was succeeded by William H. Chollar, the present incumbent, July 13th, 1885. The office of secretary and treasurer has been filled by the following: Henry N. Clemons, July 26th, 1864, to August 3d, 1875; William H. Chollar, to July 10th, 1876; Anthony Ames, to July 13th, 1886; Chauncey C. Young, to the present time. Anthony Ames is vice-president, and the following are trustees: Lysander Warren, Samuel S. Waldo, Rowland R. James, Edward H. Jacobs, Sidney W. Crofut, Thomas J. Evans, James Perkins. The first deposit was made September 17th, 1864. The last report shows the total number of depositors, 2,029, and the total deposits \$530,198.63. The bank occupies a room in the building on the west side of Main street, which was built by the bank soon after the commencement.

Danielsonville can boast of one of the finest buildings for public entertainments that can be found in Windham county. Music Hall was built by a joint stock company, organized under the general state law, the shares being \$25 each. The building was erected in 1876. The capital stock of the company was

\$20,000, but the building was erected at a cost of \$38,000. It has a handsome front of pressed brick, with iron facings, pillars, projections and ornaments. The audience room, which is on the ground floor, easy of access, has stage and gallery, and will seat 800 persons. When John B. Gough lectured in it there were 1,000 persons in it, by some dint of crowding. It has movable chairs, so that the floor can be easily cleared for any purpose that requires it. The building is three stories high, with another story in the Mansard roof. The ground floor in front is occupied by a store on one side and post office on the other side of the entrance hall. The second floor is occupied by the Killingly National Bank and offices. The third floor is occupied by Armory Hall, and in the fourth story or Mansard roof is Grand Army Hall. The ground covered by the building is about 60 by 130 feet.

The People's Library is an institution in which the intelligent people of the village take considerable interest. It was started as a Young Men's Library about thirty-five years ago. From small beginnings it has increased in size until it now has about 2,500 volumes. It has a room on the second floor of Music Hall building, and is kept open during certain hours of certain days of the week. It is supported by funds raised by membership fees and dues. The association has three classes of members: life members, who pay \$3 for admission and 50 cents annually, and are entitled to vote; annual members, who simply pay 50 cents a year; and honorary members, who are made so on payment of \$15. The last two have rights to the use of books, but not to vote. The association has a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and a board of six directors. Mrs. Anthony Ames has for several years been its librarian.

The Quinebaug Manufacturing Company's mills, in the southern part of this village, are one of the largest manufacturing establishments in the county. They are delightfully situated on the right bank of the beautiful Quinebaug river, on elevated ground, and are surrounded by nearly two hundred well constructed and nice looking brick tenement houses. Their grounds cover more than ninety acres, and from the windows of the various buildings the view is enchanting. The mills proper are designated as No. 1 and No. 2. No. 1, or the oldest mill, was built by Mr. Tiffany, the father of the celebrated New York jeweler, over a half century ago. It has lately, however, been

entirely reconstructed, with new machinery throughout. This mill is of wood, and is the first one approached from the town. No. 2 is of stone, is a massive structure, and with its great wings and extensions, covers a large amount of ground. It would require a large amount of space to describe all the interesting details—we will have to generalize. The dimensions of the latter named mill are as follows: main building, 343 by 48 feet; south wing, 160 by 52 feet; picker house, 93 by 41 feet; west addition, 122 by 48 feet; north wing, 152 by 48 feet; roller shop, 124 by 20; weave shed, 450 by 102. No. 1 mill is 200 by 30 feet in area, and has a power of 100 horses, while No. 2 has that of 900 horses. These works are run by water power, but steam engines of equal power as named for water are on hand in case of necessity. There are 54,736 spindles and 1,400 looms, and the number of employees is about 800, the pay rolls of whom amount to over \$19,000 every four weeks. The number of yards manufactured per year is over 3,000,000, and consists of sheetings of different widths and weights.

This company was incorporated in 1851, and the present officers are: R. C. Taft, president; John W. Danielson, treasurer; B. A. Bailey, agent. The nominal capital is \$500,000, and the stock is mostly owned in Providence. Mill No. 2 was built over twenty-five years ago. This company own a large store, which has for its customers others beside the operatives. The operatives are all paid in cash, and there are but about one-third who avail themselves of the discount, for all are at liberty to trade where they will. About three-quarters of the operatives of this great corporation—the Quinebaug Company—are French Canadians, one-eighth are Irish, and the balance scattering. They all seem contented and happy, and we learned from the residents of the town that they are an orderly and thrifty class.

The Quinebaug Grist Mill is located at the junction of the Five Mile river with the Quinebaug. It was established by the Quinebaug Company in 1879, is run by water, and has a storage capacity of 15,000 bushels. It is supplied with improved machinery for the manufacture of buckwheat flour. During the season about 1,000 bushels of this grain a week are ground up.

In 1852 Eleazar Baker came to this town from Massachusetts, and began the manufacture of reeds at Dayville. In 1854 he moved the business to Danielsonville. In 1858 he sold the business to William S. Short, who ran the same till his death in 1865.

Mr. Baker then re-purchased the business and continued in it until November, 1870, when he sold it to R. S. Lathrop. The latter in 1881 built a brick mill on the east bank of the Five Mile river, near the railroad station, where the business has been continued since that time. It is still owned by Mr. Lathrop's heirs, and is now managed by his son, H. V. Lathrop.

The Danielsonville Cotton Company's works are situated between the Quinebaug and the Five Mile rivers. They consist of three mills proper, and are a continuation of the Danielsonville Company, founded over seventy years ago. One of the mills, called the old one, is a frame building, erected in 1816, and is still used for various purposes. The stone structure about seventy feet distant from the first named, and on the same side of the street, was built later, while the large brick mill opposite was constructed in 1868. This mill is 219 by 78 feet, four stories and a basement. The picker room is 63 by 43 feet, two stories. The boiler house adjoining is 40 by 40 feet, and the engine room 18 by 52 feet. The office is 31 by 42 feet, two stories and basement. The motive power is furnished by water, the facilities having a capacity available to the extent of 350 horse power. Steam engines are also in reserve in case of need. The present company was organized in 1880, and they have a capital of \$175,000. The officers are: B. B. Knight, president; Jeffrey Hazard, treasurer, and A. J. Gardiner, superintendent. In these mills are 17,024 spindles and 384 looms. They manufacture prints, sheetings and shirtings. About 4,500,000 yards are turned out annually. About 300 hands are employed. The establishment in general indicates the presence and direction of a master hand, and such we find in the business qualifications and courteous manners of its superintendent.

The Assawaga Mill of E. Pilling & Co. is on School street, nearly across the block, in rear of the Attawaugan House. It is now called the Aspinock Knitting Company. It employs about forty hands in the manufacture of seamless half hose and other knit goods, cotton and woolen. It is furnished with 50 knitting machines. The business was started in the spring of 1883. The mill is well supplied with the most improved kinds of machinery, and the reputation of the work is built upon a careful and honest foundation.

Near the last mentioned are the works of Messrs. E. H. Jacobs & Co., manufacturers of loom harness, belting and hose. The

works were a few years since removed to this place from Pawtucket, R. I. The mill has an area of 5,000 square feet of floor surface. Making and repairing leather belting, loom strapping, pickers and mill supplies in general, are among the branches of work done. The "Challenge" hose carriage, a very popular apparatus all over New England, is manufactured here. About one hundred sets per day of finished loom harness are also manufactured here.

The Quinebaug Brick Company hail from Danielsonville, though their works are about two miles from the village center, in the town of Brooklyn. They make some four million bricks annually, which are shipped from Danielsonville by railroad to points in southern New England. The bricks are reckoned as first quality in all respects, as the fact that they are used in some of the largest manufacturing and storage buildings and other important structures, abundantly testifies. Sabin L. Sayles is president of the company; Hon. Charles A. Russell, treasurer; Charles R. Palmer, resident agent, and George Benjamin, overseer.

The principal hotel of this village is the Attawaugan, a house of liberal proportions and well furnished appointments. It was built in 1856. The first manager was Henry Peckham, who ran it a few months. Since that time it has been run by the present proprietor, Lewis Worden. The house has forty-one large and well lighted lodging rooms, and its arrangements in general are excellent and commodious.

Moriah Lodge, No. 15, is the lineal descendant of the old Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons which we have already noticed in connection with Canterbury, where its principal early headquarters were. The lodge had the honor of being Number 1, that is, the first lodge instituted in the state of Connecticut. It was instituted in 1790. At first it had what was called a roving charter, which allowed it to move about and hold meetings in different towns to accommodate circumstances. In its early membership it embraced some of the leading men of the county, which are more particularly mentioned in connection with Canterbury. At the time of the Morgan excitement, a remarkable era in Masonic history, the charter was given up and action of the lodge suspended for a few years. Afterward it was revived, but the honorable number was lost, and the lodge was numbered 15. Its home for many years has been in Danielsonville, where it now

meets in a room in the Exchange Building. The present officers are: M. A. Shumway, W. M.; George R. Warner, S. W.; A. P. Somes, J. W.; F. T. Preston, treasurer; Anthony Ames, secretary; E. W. Hayward, S. D.; John W. Day, J. D.; Hosea E. Green, S. S.; George C. Foote, J. S.; E. L. Palmer, chaplain; H. F. Clark, marshall; E. S. Carpenter, tyler; J. F. Seamans, O. W. Bowen and F. W. Franklin, auditors.

Growing out of this lodge are Warren Chapter, No. 12, Royal Arch Masons, and a council of R. & S. Masters. The chapter was chartered in 1812. Its present officers are: M. A. Shumway, M. E. H. P.; George R. Warner, E. K.; Henry F. Clark, E. S.; F. T. Preston, treasurer; J. F. Seamans, secretary; H. H. Green, C. of H.; C. E. Hill, P. S.; F. A. Shumway, R. A. C.; Jarvis Wallen, 3d veil; C. H. Frisbie, 2d veil; E. W. Scott, Jr., 1st veil; E. S. Carpenter, tyler; H. H. Green, C. H. Keach, H. F. Clark, auditors. Montgomery Council, No. 2, Royal and Select Masters, was chartered in 1818. Their present officers are: H. H. Green, T. I. M.; C. E. Hill, I. D. M.; M. A. Shumway, I. P. C.; F. T. Preston, treasurer; J. F. Seamans, R.; H. F. Clark, C. of G.; F. A. Shumway, C. of C.; C. H. Keach, steward; Reverend George R. Warner, chaplain; E. S. Carpenter, sentinel; W. E. Hyde, H. F. Clark, E. L. Palmer, auditors.

McGregor Post, No. 27, G. A. R., was organized at Danielsonville, July 1st, 1868. Its charter members were: Frank Burroughs, S. C. Chamberlin, H. O. Bemis, D. S. Simmons, P. G. Brown, A. F. Bacon, C. W. James, Charles Burton, H. B. Fuller, H. K. Gould. The first officers were as follows: Frank Burroughs, C.; S. C. Chamberlin, S. V. C.; S. M. Howard, J. V. C.; H. B. Fuller, adjutant; G. W. Bartlett, Q. M.; E. M. Eldridge, chaplain. The office of commander has been held by the following persons: Frank Burroughs, David M. Colvin, U. B. Schofield, William E. Hyde, D. S. Simmons, E. J. Mathewson, William E. Hyde, Frank Burroughs, E. S. Nash, H. F. Clark, B. E. Rapp, S. M. Woodward, Charles Burton, J. W. Randall, H. F. Clark. The post has a commodious room in Music Hall building. Its present membership is sixty-four. The present officers are: H. F. Clark, C.; Nathan Seaver, S. V. C.; T. H. Stearns, J. V. C.; S. M. Woodward, adjutant; U. B. Schofield, Q. M.; L. B. Arnold, surgeon; Reverend James Dingwell, chaplain.

Quinebaug Lodge, No. 34, I. O. O. F., was instituted at Danielsonville, February 13th, 1889. The charter members were:

Newton Phillips, Walter F. Bliven, John B. Hopkins, C. F. Chapman, Reuben Pilling, Jr., A. A. Boswell, A. W. Dean, John H. Perry, James P. Carver, Henry E. Baker, John E. Bassett, Frank A. Prince and Edward Fairman. The lodge meets on Tuesday nights, in Knights of Pythias Hall, in the Savings Bank building. The officers elected for this, the first year, were: Newton Phillips, N. G.; Frank Prince, V. G.; Walter Bliven, secretary; John E. Bassett, treasurer; A. W. Dean, R. S. N. G.; John Perry, L. S. N. G.; Henry Baker, R. S. V. G.; James B. Carver, L. S. V. G.; Reuben Pilling, Jr., W.; A. A. Boswell, C.; Charles Chapman, R. S. S.; W. DeLoss Wood, L. S. S.; J. B. Hopkins, I. G.; Frank Willard, O. G.

Orient Lodge, No. 37, Knights of Pythias, was instituted here December 19th, 1877. The charter members were: E. L. Palmer, T. W. Greenslit, C. H. Bacon, N. W. James, W. N. Thomas, F. A. Jacobs, H. F. Logee, F. P. Warren, C. E. Woodis, O. L. Jenkins, A. J. Ladd, S. L. Adams and C. L. Fillmore. The first officers were: E. L. Palmer, P. C.; T. W. Greenslit, C. C.; C. H. Bacon, V. C.; N. W. James, P.; A. J. Roberts, M. of E.; W. N. Thomas, M. of F.; F. A. Jacobs, K. of R. & S.; H. F. Logee, M. at A.; F. P. Warren, I. G.; C. E. Woodis, O. G. The present membership is about fifty. The numbers have been depleted by the formation of John Lyon Lodge, at Dayville, in 1888, their membership withdrawing from this lodge. The trustees are: F. A. Jacobs, C. H. Bacon and N. W. James. The lodge meets on Thursday evenings, at their hall in Savings Bank building.

Ætna Lodge, No. 21, A. O. U. W., was instituted here June 21st, 1883, with sixteen charter members. The first officers were: A. P. Somes, P. M. W.; A. G. Bill, M. W.; C. E. Woodis, foreman; C. A. Potter, overseer; E. Pilling, recorder; B. L. Bailey, financier; F. B. Brooks, receiver; C. M. Adams, guide; A. F. Wood, I. W.; F. G. Bailey, O. W. The following have successively held the office of M. W.: A. G. Bill, balance of 1883; C. E. Woodis, 1884; C. M. Adams, 1885; R. A. Bailey, 1886; A. P. Somes, 1887; C. H. Bacon, 1888; Irving Hawkins, 1889. The following have been successive recorders: E. Pilling, to January 1st, 1885; F. B. Brooks, 1885 and 1886; C. H. Bacon, 1887; A. P. Somes, 1888; F. U. Scofield, 1889. The lodge now numbers fifty-three. It has lost but one member since its organization—Hosea Green, who died March 5th, 1889. The lodge meets the first and

third Wednesday nights of each month, in Knights of Pythias Hall.

Lockwood Council, No. 33, O. U. A. M., was organized here May 9th, 1889. It was named in honor of A. D. Lockwood, formerly of this village, chief owner and founder of the Quinebaug Mills. The council was organized with thirty charter members. It gives sickness and death benefits to its members. The membership has been already increased to forty. The first officers were: Charles E. Woodis, C.; Walter E. Heath, V. C.; Walter E. Kies, J. Ex. C.; William H. Hamilton, S. Ex. C.; Charles D. Stone, R. S.; George R. Baker, A. S.; Albert Burrows, F. S.; Edward S. Carpenter, treasurer; Adelbert Perkins, inductor; E. G. Baker, examiner; J. J. Rynolds, I. P.; R. J. Coon, O. P.; U. B. Scofield, C. C. Franklin and W. E. Heath, trustees.

Quinebaug Assembly, No. 209, Royal Society of Good Fellows, an insurance order, was instituted February 4th, 1889, by Albert Leavens, supreme deputy of Boston. The first officers were: William H. Wilcox, ruler; Doctor W. H. Judson, past ruler; John E. Westcott, instructor; Charles A. Wood, councillor; Charles D. Stone, secretary; E. C. Babson, F. S.; Frank S. Downer, treasurer; Charles C. Franklin, prelate; Henry A. Brown, director; W. F. Oates, guard; Frederick G. Oates, sentry; W. H. Leavens, John T. Smith and Doctor W. H. Judson, trustees. The society had twenty-two charter members, and this number has increased to over thirty, a part of which are from Wauregan. Funds to meet insurance are provided by assessments. The headquarters of the order are in Boston. It has many very prominent men among its membership. Doctor W. H. Judson, in May, 1889, received a commission as supreme deputy over this jurisdiction, which comprehends Windham county.

The first newspaper in this village was called the *New England Arena*, and was started by Edwin B. Carter in 1844. He had already made some attempts at newspaper publishing in Brooklyn, which he now abandoned for this field. But this enterprise was doomed to early dissolution. In 1848 the *Windham County Telegraph* was started here. The *True Democrat* and the *Windham County Gazette* were also started here about the same time, but they were short lived. After a fluctuating existence of some ten years, under the successive, if not successful, management of Francis E. Jaques, its founder, Fred. Peck, F. E. Harrison, J. A. Spalding and C. J. Little, it was sold to J. Q. A. Stone, in 1858.

Mr. Stone, by hard labor, careful management and unfaltering perseverance, has brought the paper up from a list of four hundred circulation to a position of influence and usefulness second to none in the county. It has been the earnest exponent of the great progressive movements in which the welfare of society has been concerned, and in its advocacy of the right it has not made obeisance to questions of personal profit or advancement. It is a neatly printed, nine column folio, issued every Wednesday evening. A paper called the *Herald* lived a few years, and was succeeded by the *Sentinel*, a democratic newspaper, which, after a few years, suspended. The *New England Fancier* is the title of a neat monthly publication, in pamphlet form, 24 pages, which was started in 1885. It is devoted to poultry. It circulates in every state and territory, and in France and England. From the same office is issued a neat four column, quarto paper, devoted to both poultry and dogs, which is called *Hamilton's Weekly*, started in 1889. The Kennel Department of this is edited by A. R. Crowell of Mattapan, Mass. Both these papers are published by William H. Hamilton. The job printing office with which they are connected has an extensive patronage of poultry and association printing from all parts of the country, and employs from six to ten hands. Mr. Hamilton is an honorary member of the Massachusetts Poultry Association, which is largely composed of business and professional men of Boston and vicinity. He is also an active member of the American Poultry Association, and one of the originators and vice-president of the American Langshan Club, which has its headquarters in Bellows Falls, Vt., and officers in different parts of the Union.

The Wauregan Brick Company has its post office address in Danielsonville, though its works are mainly on the southern border of the town of Killingly, or over the line in the town of Plainfield. Work was commenced there in 1886. The company was organized under the general joint stock law, in 1886. The works are located on the line of railroad, so that no carting is required. The machinery is run by steam. About 3,000,000 bricks are annually made, about 35 hands being employed in the work. The officers of the company are: George H. Nichols, president; Milton A. Shumway, secretary; John Elliott, treasurer.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

WILLIAM A. ATWOOD.—Mr. Atwood was one of the most prominent figures in the industrial interests of Killingly. His grandparents were Kimball and Selinda Colgrove Atwood. His father was John Atwood, who married Julia A. Battey. Their son, William Allen, was born August 4th, 1833, in Williamsville, in the town of Killingly, and received more than an elementary education. First entering the Danielsonville High School, he continued his studies at the Scituate Seminary in Rhode Island, and at Wilbraham, Mass., completing his academic education at Middleboro, Mass. He early entered the Williamsville mills, then under the superintendence of his father, and having made himself familiar with their practical workings, soon bore a conspicuous part in the management of the business. The failing health of his father threw much of the responsibility upon his son, and on the death of the former in 1865, the entire direction of this important manufacturing interest was placed in his hands. Under his watchful eye the business made rapid advancement, and at the date of his death, on the 26th of June, 1881, in New York city, had attained a high degree of prosperity.

Mr. Atwood was married October 4th, 1855, to Caroline A., daughter of Robert K. and Helen Brown Hargraves. Their four children are: Henry Clinton; Bradford Allen, who died in infancy; Mary Elizabeth, deceased, wife of G. W. Lynn, and William Edwin. Both the sons are interested in the Williamsville Manufacturing Company, Henry Clinton being the superintendent, assistant treasurer and secretary. Mr. Atwood was also a stockholder in the large mills at Taftville, and a director of the First National Bank of Killingly. He enjoyed not only the esteem of the community, but the affectionate regard of his employes. This was accomplished by a genial intercourse and a liberal and thoughtful management of his varied interests. In disposition he was retiring and unassuming, doing many kindly acts with such a quiet grace as to make them known only to the recipients of his favor. It has been justly said that he belonged to that class of men who

“ * * * do good by stealth,
And blush to find it fame.”

The profound mourning his death occasioned was a just tribute to his usefulness and worth.



W. H. P. 1871

William A. Amos



EDWIN H. BUGBEE.—The subject of this sketch was born in Thompson, April 26th, 1820. His father was James Bugbee, who was born at Woodstock April 11th, 1788, a descendant, through Hezekiah, James, Samuel and Joseph, from Edward Bugby, who came over in the "Francis" from Ipswich, England, in 1634, and settled in Roxbury, Mass. His mother was Elizabeth Dorrance, a descendant of George Dorrance, who came from the North of Ireland with that large Scotch emigration about the year 1715. He received his education in the public schools of his native town, and was early a clerk in his father's store, devoting his leisure hours to reading and study. In 1839 he was engaged by a manufacturing firm, located at the Lyman village, North Providence, R. I., as clerk and bookkeeper. The year proving a disastrous one for cotton manufacturers, the firm felt obliged to suspend operations before its close. In the spring of 1840, operations were again resumed at the mill by its owner, Governor Lemuel H. Arnold, and Mr. Bugbee was continued as clerk. At the close of 1842 business was again suspended by the failure of Governor Arnold. The summer following, Mr. Bugbee obtained a lease of the factory property, and associating with him Mr. Henry Weaver, a practical operator, and receiving abundant financial aid from his friends, the well known firm of S. & W. Foster, of Providence, commenced business on his own account. Although at the commencement the outlook was not flattering, by an unprecedented advance in the price of print cloths, together with prudent management, the business showed at the expiration of the lease gratifying and substantial returns. At the close of the lease, the factory having been sold in the meantime, Mr. Bugbee returned to his native town, having, during the year, purchased a farm in Thompson; but not finding the business of farming at all congenial to his taste, sold it, and in the summer of 1849 entered the employ of the Williamsville Manufacturing Company, of Killingly, S. & W. Foster the Providence agents, with whom he remained thirty years, retiring in 1879.

Mr. Bugbee seems to have early won the esteem of the citizens of Killingly, they conferring various town offices upon him, and in 1857 elected him as one of their representatives to the general assembly, he serving at this session on the judiciary committee. Although a new member and without legislative experience, he at once took a prominent part in the debates of the session, al-

ways commanding the close attention of the house, receiving commendation at the close of the session from political papers of both parties. In 1859 he was again returned to the house and appointed chairman of the committee on education. In 1861, the war year, he was elected to the house for the third time, and was again chairman of the committee on education. This session was one of the most important in the history of the state, the inauguration year of the great rebellion; and had enrolled among the members of either house some of its ablest men. At its commencement the marshaling of troops had already begun, the sound of war everywhere heard, and the *ways* and *means* for furnishing material aid and support to the federal government were the engrossing subjects of discussion. At this session the subject of our sketch again took a prominent part on the floor of the house. Aside from war questions at this session, the most exciting subject was that of the Flowage Bill. This bill was ably discussed *pro* and *con*, Mr. Bugbee making a lengthy speech in its favor, which was highly commended. In 1863 he was again elected, serving as chairman of the committee on state prison. In 1865 he was elected state senator from the 14th district by the large majority of 1,223 votes. On the floor of the senate as in the house he proved an active member. At this session he was chairman of the committee on banks, and one of the eulogists in the senate on the death of President Lincoln. In 1868 he was elected senator for the second time and chosen president *pro tem.* of that body, serving as chairman of the committee on military affairs. In 1869 he was in the house and again chairman of the committee on education. He was elected to the house in 1871 and chosen speaker, in which capacity he won especial favor and commendation. In 1873 he was a member of the house and chairman of the committee on new towns and probate districts. He was elected for the eighth time to the house in 1879, receiving the major vote of both political parties of Killingly, and was chairman of the committee on cities and boroughs.

The partiality of the voters of his adopted town in having elected him eight times their representative—something unusual in Connecticut towns, we think—and on two occasions giving him large majorities for senator, must have been exceedingly gratifying to the subject of our sketch. Mr. Bugbee, though an earnest republican, has never been a violent partisan; and by his



Wm. Brewster, 1877

E. H. Briggs



non-partisan action when a member of the legislature, has received more or less democratic support. Through all the years of his legislative career he was ever attentive to his duties, seldom failing to answer to roll calls, participating in most of the important debates, always listened to with attention, receiving credit in either house as among their most eloquent speakers.

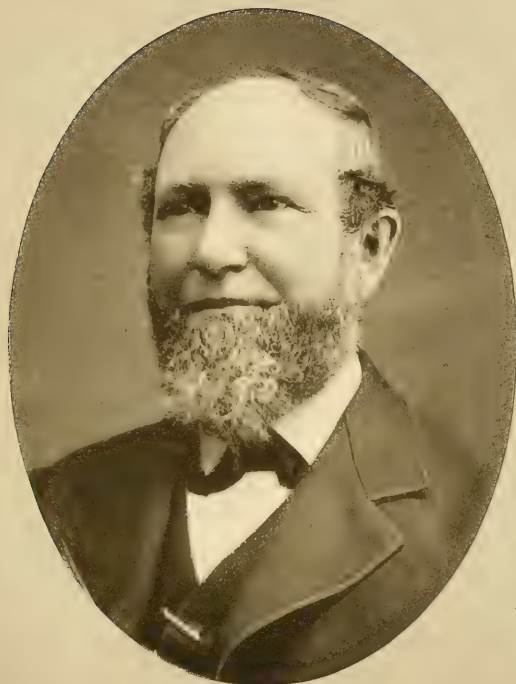
He married, in 1865, Selenda Howard, daughter of Howard Griswold, Esq., of Randolph, Vt. She deceased in July of the following year. He has retired from active business and at present resides in Putnam, Conn. He is a life member of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, and its vice-president for Connecticut, and is much interested in genealogical investigation. He has been one of the directors of the First National Bank of Putnam since the first year of its existence. He is represented as being heartily in favor of tariff and civil service reform, and condemns as unpatriotic the policy so often pursued by the political party that is out of power of opposing on purely partisan grounds and for party purposes the measures proposed by the party in power, which very measures if they, the minority, were in power they themselves would recommend and advocate.

HENRY N. CLEMONS, cashier of the First National Bank of Killingly, was born in Granby, Conn., son of Allen and Catharine Clemons. He was educated in the district school, the Granby Academy, the Suffield Literary Institution and the Williston Seminary, East Hampton, Mass. He began teaching at sixteen years of age, and taught in Hartland, Granby and Hartford, Conn., and Woonsocket and Central Falls, R.I. He was for a while in the office of the commissioner of the school fund in Hartford, Conn. In 1844 he commenced railroading on the New Haven & Northampton road, with the engineer corps. He served as station agent at Farmington and Collinsville, Conn., and was assistant postmaster at the latter place; then ticket agent of the Providence & Worcester road at Providence. In 1855 he commenced banking, as clerk in the Arcade Bank, at Providence, and in 1856 became teller of the Merchants' Bank, then the redeeming bank for Rhode Island, in the old Suffolk system. In June, 1864, he was elected cashier of the First National Bank of Killingly, Conn., then just organized, which office he now holds, after more than twenty-five years' service, a period longer than any other cashier in eastern Connecticut. The capital of the

bank is \$110,000. With its July dividend, 1889, it had paid back to its stockholders \$226,600 in dividends. In August, 1864, he was elected treasurer of the Windham County Savings Bank, and organized the bank, and held that position till 1875. Under his treasurership the bank's deposits reached \$1,300,000. It was the first savings bank in eastern Connecticut to allow interest to commence each month. In 1866-7 the savings bank built, under his supervision, their present bank building. On the organization of the Music Hall Company he was chosen treasurer, and arranged in its building the banking rooms now occupied by the national bank. In 1866 he was chosen treasurer of District No. 1, Killingly, and on the union of districts 1 and 2 was re-elected, carrying out the financial arrangements needed in building the high school house, holding the office for eighteen years. Mr. Clemons was treasurer of the Congregational church for thirteen years, and has been notary public for twenty-five years in this state.

THOMAS J. EVANS, who was born May 17th, 1826, in Brooklyn, Connecticut, is the son of Elijah Evans, and the grandson of Elisha Evans. His active career was begun at the age of seventeen, as a teacher in Killingly, where he continued for ten successive years, his last term at Dayville having closed with an interesting exhibition, the proceeds of which aided greatly in the purchase of a library and other school supplies. For five years he was engaged in the clothing business in the above village, and his capital was afterward invested in a livery stable which he successfully managed for nine years at the same point. In the year 1878 Mr. Evans erected a substantial brick block in Danielsonville, and the following year made that place his residence. His political connections were with the republican party, which he frequently represented in the various county and town offices. He was for sixteen years a member of the board of education, for five years assessor, three years town clerk, and judge of probate from 1872 to 1886. He was also warden of the borough and a member of the court of burgesses. For two years he was president of the Windham County Agricultural Society and four years its treasurer. Mr. Evans was married in 1850 to Miss Eliza Kennedy. His death occurred in 1889.

TIMOTHY EARLE HOPKINS.—The grandparents of Mr. Hopkins were Timothy Hopkins, born in 1751, and Sarah Carver, daughter of Captain Joseph Carver. His father was Carver



Thos. J. Evans



W. E. Rogers & Co. N.Y.

J. E. Hopkins

Hopkins, born October 26th, 1799, who married Abby K. Manchester. Their children, seven in number, were: Israel M., Florinda A., Sarah C., Abby E., Ann E., Timothy E. and Lillian P., of whom all but the eldest son are still living. Timothy Earle Hopkins was born in Burrillville, R. I., December 5th, 1835, of which place he continued a resident until 1862. His education was received in the public schools and at New Hampton, N. H., where a year was spent in study, after which he served an apprenticeship as a spindle maker in his native town. He then engaged for two years in mercantile business, and at the expiration of this time removed to Providence, where three years were spent as a merchant. In 1865 Mr. Hopkins removed to Thompson and embarked in the manufacture of cotton goods, remaining at this point until 1870, when Burrillville again became his home. Here he continued the business of a manufacturer, the product of his mills being woolen fabrics. In 1876 he suffered disaster and loss as a consequence of the severe flood of that year, and soon after removed to Fitchburg, Mass., where until 1880 he continued the manufacture of woollens. Mr. Hopkins then became a resident of Danielsonville, his present home, where he is still engaged in the production of woolen goods in the town of Killingly. He is also treasurer of the Jesse Eddy Manufacturing Company, of Fall River, Mass., and one of the promoters of the Crystal Water Company, of Danielsonville, of which corporation he is president. He is a director of the First National Bank of Killingly. Mr. Hopkins in politics gives his support to the republican party, and represented the town of Thompson in the Connecticut house of representatives in 1868. He has also, since his residence in Danielsonville, been active in furthering the educational interests of the borough. He is an active Mason, member of Friendship Lodge of that order at Chepachet, of Providence Chapter, and of Calvary Commandery, of Providence. Mr. Hopkins was in May, 1859, married to Marcella S., daughter of James S. Cook, of Burrillville. They have had three children—Elsie M., Earle Carver and Earle Cook; Earle Carver being deceased.

ALMOND M. PAINE.—Benjamin Paine, the grandfather of Judge Almond M. Paine, was a successful farmer in Gloucester, R. I. By his marriage to Phebe Aldrich were born a numerous family of children. The birth of his son, Ransom Paine, occurred December 13th, 1787, and his death on the 15th of January, 1854,

in Gloucester, where he followed the trade of a wheelwright, and spent the latter years of his life as a farmer. He married Phebe, daughter of Thomas Smith, of the same town, who was born June 12th, 1794, and died March 12th, 1860. Their children are: Almond M., Mary Ann, wife of James M. Adams; Emily, married to Elijah Mann; Adaline M., who died in infancy, and James A.

The eldest son, and subject of this biography, was born September 15th, 1820, in Gloucester, and received an academic education. At the early age of fifteen he engaged in teaching, and for nine successive years the winters found him at the teacher's desk, while the healthful employments of the farm engaged his attention during the summer months. In 1846 he removed to Sterling, and four years later made East Killingly his home. Here he embarked in trade as a country merchant, and continued a successful business until his retirement, since which date his time has been largely devoted to the management of his private interests, and to the public service.

As a republican he for several years filled the office of justice of the peace, and was repeatedly elected assessor of his town. In 1857 he was made judge of probate and served four years, having also, during a brief residence in Thompson, been chosen to the same office for a term of two years. He was appointed by President Lincoln postmaster of East Killingly, and held the commission during that administration. Judge Paine was in 1864 made a director of the First National Bank of Killingly, and later a corporator and trustee of the Windham County Savings Bank. His services are often sought as administrator and trustee, where integrity and judgment are primary qualities. Judge Paine was in 1847 married to Phebe Salsbury of Foster, Rhode Island, born April 28th, 1817, who died in 1878. Their children are: Eliza D., born May 31st, 1848, who died in 1879; and Emily M., whose birth occurred June 12th, 1854.

HENRY WESTCOTT.—James Westcott, the grandfather of Henry Westcott, familiarly known as the "Captain," was born March 5th, 1740, and married Martha Tillinghast. Their son Joseph, whose birth occurred April 9th, 1779, in Gloucester, Rhode Island, married Esther Richmond of the same town. The children of this union were: Henry; Almira, wife of Jude Sabin; Elizabeth, married to James Wood; and David. Henry, the eldest son, was born April 18th, 1801, in Gloucester, and in early childhood re-



A M Price



Henry Westcott

moved to East Killingly, where the primitive schools of the day afforded him a beginning for that practical education which was chiefly the growth of experience and observation.

In early years a farmer, he afterward identified himself with the commercial interests of East Killingly, and was associated with Thomas Pray as a manufacturer, under the firm name of Westcott & Pray. They built the Ross mill and the Whitestone mill, conducted an extensive business, and were regarded as among the most prosperous owners of mill property in the county. Mr. Westcott's marked ability, keen discrimination and indomitable perseverance won for him an enviable reputation in financial circles, and carried him safely through many a crisis where a less resolute man would have faltered. In his business relations he enjoyed a record for integrity and generous dealing, while his genial nature made all transactions a matter of pleasure to others. On disposing of his interest at East Killingly, he retired to Danielsonville, his residence at the date of his death, on the 5th of June, 1878. Mr. Westcott was an active and honored member of the Baptist church, and contributed with liberality toward the erection of the new edifice in the borough where he resided. In politics a whig and republican, he filled the more important town offices, and was elected to the state legislature in 1840. Mr. Westcott was, on the 3d of February, 1824, married to Almira Browning of Rutland, Mass. Their eldest child, Nancy N., died in infancy. The surviving children are a daughter, A. Elizabeth, and a son, Henry T., both of Danielsonville.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

THE TOWN OF ASHFORD.

The Wabbaquasset Country.—Land Speculators.—Settlement of Ashford.—Major Fitch.—James Corbin.—New Scituate.—The Town Established.—Titles Confirmed.—Common Proprietors.—Land Controversies.—Civil Disorder.—Military Company.—Population and Growth.—Public Morals and Order.—Growth of the Settlement.—Early Town Officers.—Land Title War.—Days of the Revolution.—Visit of President Washington.—Post Office, Taverns and Probate Court.—Honored Sons.—Roads and Bridges.—Schools.—Ecclesiastical History.—First Church.—The Great Revival and the Separates.—Westford Congregational Church.—Meeting Houses and Ministers.—First Baptist Church.—Eminent Men of Westford.—Baptist Church of Westford.—Manufacturing in Westford.—Warrenville Baptist Church.—Manufacturing and Business at Warrenville.—Eminent Sons of Ashford.—Babcock Library and Band.—Biographical Sketch.

IN the early period of settlement the territory of Ashford, which originally included also the present town of Eastford, was a part of the Wabbaquasset country which was conveyed to Major Fitch by Owaneco in 1684. It was a wild forest region, remote from civilization, but known and traversed from the early settlement of New England, lying directly in the route from Boston to Connecticut. The first company of Connecticut colonists encamped, it is said, on the hill north of the present village of Ashford, and the old Connecticut Path crossed what is now Ashford Common. Thus the land here was exposed to the view of passing adventurers for three-quarters of a century before any attempt was made at settlement in this vicinity. The first land laid out within this territory was a tract four miles square, now in the south part of Eastford, which was made over to Simeon Stoddard of Boston, in 1695, in satisfaction of a judgment of court. Major Fitch was at the time greatly embarrassed in business affairs, and his title to the Wabbaquasset country was questioned. Mr. Stoddard was a resident of another colony, and so neither was disposed to undertake the settlement of this region.

At this time representations had been made to the general court of Connecticut upon which that body on the 9th of May, 1706, granted to "such good people as shall be willing to settle thereon," a township eight miles square, and appointed a committee of its own members to lay out the township by actual survey, also to lay out home lots and other divisions of land, to order and manage the affairs of the town and to admit and settle all such inhabitants as should be approved, and who should pay their proportionate share of the expense of surveying and settling the same. This action of the court aroused Major Fitch to action, and he at once began to push the sale of lands which he claimed. In 1707, a tract five miles in length and three in width was purchased for £110, by John Cushing, Samuel Clap and David Jacob, of Scituate, and laid out on the west of the Stoddard tract, and was called the New Scituate Plantation. Captain John Chandler soon purchased a large part of this tract and a strip of land adjacent, and became the chief proprietor of New Scituate. The whole remaining territory of original Ashford, comprising 21,400 acres, was sold by Major Fitch to James Corbin, of Woodstock, in 1708, and he conveyed the same to David Jacob, Job Randall and twelve others, residents of Scituate, Hingham and Andover, Mr. Corbin retaining an equal share in the land and managing the affairs of the company. These tracts were laid out as rapidly as possible, and efforts made to initiate a settlement in advance of the government. The proprietors had but partial confidence in the validity of their titles. The first actual settlement upon this land appears to have been by John Mixer, of Canterbury, who for four pounds purchased a tract of one hundred acres, the deed to which containing the stipulation that if the proprietors' right should be proven invalid the four pounds should be returned to the purchaser. His land lay on the river at a place called Mount Hope, where the present village of Warrenville is situated. This was in January, 1710. A few months later, in April, John Perry, of Marlborough, bought three hundred and fifty acres near the present site of Eastford village, and settled upon it.

The general court, whose committee had done nothing toward laying out a town here, now reappointed a committee with more practical instructions to proceed at once with the project of establishing a town here. The committee now took possession of the township and undertook to lay it out in the name of the col-

ony. The name Ashford was suggested by the great number of ash trees which grew in the primitive forests. The region was rough, rocky and unattractive, a great portion of it being covered with dense forests which abounded in wolves, bears and various species of game. This was a favorite hunting ground of the remaining Wabbaquassets, who secured large quantities of furs here, which they furnished in trade to Mr. Corbin, who derived therefrom a considerable revenue. Only two families of white inhabitants, and they living five miles apart, were now upon the tract. The impending contest between the individual proprietors already mentioned and the government of Connecticut was a serious obstacle in the way of settlement. Both parties appealed to the general court; the representatives of the Fitch title for confirmation of their title and liberty to settle, and the committee to show their inability to carry out their instructions under existing circumstances. While the court was undecided as to what course to take, the claimants under Fitch pushed forward the work of settlement. Philip Eastman, of Woodstock, and John Pitts, Benjamin Allen, Benjamin Russel and William Ward, of Marlborough, bought farms of James Corbin and settled on them, north of the Stoddard tract, on Still river, in the summer of 1711. Houses were built, lands broken up, and a highway was laid out by these settlers. In the following year William Price, senior and junior, David Bishop, Nathaniel Walker, John Chubb and John Ross bought land of Corbin and joined the eastern settlement. Daniel James and Nathaniel Fuller, of Windham, Josiah Bugbee, of Woodstock, and Samuel Rice and Philip Squier, of Concord, purchased farms of Captain Chandler in New Scituate. The court's committee also sold some land. Homesteads were purchased of them by Isaac Kendall, William Chapman, Isaac Farrar and Simon Burton.

In answer to a petition of the settlers, in October, 1714, the general court granted town privileges, which included the right to elect officers for carrying on the prudential affairs of the place, building a meeting house and settling and maintaining a minister. The inhabitants were also instructed to employ the surveyor of Hartford county to lay out the town eight miles square, and each claimant of land within its limits should within one year enter the deed or other record or instrument by which he claimed title in a book to be provided by the town clerk for the purpose. At the same date a quit-claim to 10,240 acres of land

in Ashford on the Pomfret line was granted by the general court to Simeon Stoddard and heirs, of Boston. Other non-resident claimants complied as soon as possible with the requirements of the court respecting the recording of land evidences.

Under the grant of town privileges the first town meeting was held early in 1715. William Ward acted as moderator; John Mixer was chosen town clerk and treasurer; John Perry, constable; William Ward and John Perry, selectmen; William Ward and John Chapman, grand jurors, and William Ward, Philip Eastman, Nathaniel Fuller, John Pitt, Benjamin Russel, James Corbin and Isaac Kendall were chosen to lay out highways. The town now determined, if possible, to secure possession of the large tracts of wild and unoccupied land which lay within its limits and were claimed under the Fitch title by non-residents who were holding it, though by a very precarious tenure of ownership, for purposes of speculation, without any expense for highways or improvements upon it. Though the town was divided upon this subject, the majority prevailed, and after considerable conflicting proceedings, the people became nearly unanimous in agreement to proceed in exercising jurisdiction and ownership of the lands claimed by non-residents before mentioned. As several of the inhabitants opposed these proceedings of the town lest it should invalidate their titles obtained from Corbin or Chandier and compel them to pay twice for their homesteads, it was granted by the town that all such as had lands purchased in that way should be allowed to hold them free, and should have an equal share in the undivided lands in addition thereto.

The town now set about the work of confirming their individual titles. January 11th, 1718, it was voted, "That the town doth grant all those lands that have been already granted to be free and clear according to the most free tenure of East Greenwich, in county of Kings in the Realm of England—provided these persons give sufficient bonds, with sureties, to John Perry and Philip Eastman, who are appointed to furnish the committee with money to build the meeting house." Under the new system the first general distribution of undivided lands was ordered by vote of the town, March 5th, 1718. This was a division of two hundred acres to each proprietor. Each farm was to be laid out in regular form, to begin at the west end of the town and extend east to a common line, so placed as to allow two

hundred acre plots of uniform size and shape. These were allotted to the proprietors by drawing. The following are the names of the forty-five persons who, having given bonds, drew lots in this division, and were thus admitted to be proprietors of Ashford: John Follet, Caleb Jackson, James Fuller, Joshua Kendall, Nathaniel Abbot, Joshua Beckman, Isaac Farrar, Nathaniel Gary, Thomas Corbin, Peter Aldrich, William Ward, Sr., Thomas Tiffany, William Ward, Jr., Joseph Ross, John Perry, Nathaniel Walker, John Mixer, Isaac Magoon, Nehemiah Watkins, Philip Squier, E. Orcutt, Nathaniel Fuller, Jacob Parker, William Price, Obadiah Abbe, Josiah Bugbee, Benjamin Miller, William Fisk, John Pitts, William Price, 2d, John Chapman, John Follet, 2d, Philip Eastman, Jacob Ward, Daniel Fuller, Widow Dimick, Jeremiah Allen, William Farnum, William Watkins, Thomas Tiffany, 2d, James Tiffany, Joseph Cook, Matthew Fuller, Isaac Kendall, Antony Goffe. A few of these proprietors were residents of Windham and Pomfret, but the most of them were already residents of Ashford. In this assumption and division of territory the town, though acting solely in its own name and authority, undoubtedly had received the sanction and advice of the committee which the general court had appointed for that purpose.

Messrs. Chandler and Cushing, in behalf of themselves and others, as claimants under the Fitch title, appealed to the general court May 8th, 1718, for a confirmation of their title. That body also, about a year later, heard the representation of the Ashford proprietors in defense of their action, they also asking for confirmation. The general court then appointed a committee, composed of James Wadsworth, John Hooker, Captain John Hall and Hezekiah Brainard to investigate the matter. They met for that purpose at Ashford, September 9th, 1719. The question of the rights of the adjoining towns of Windham and Mansfield, which were claimed to have been encroached upon by the survey of Ashford, was also involved in the investigation, but to the committee there appeared in that claim no cause of action. The investigation resulted in a settlement of the controversy as follows: As to the New Scituate claimants, Chandler, Cushing, Clapp and others, all persons holding as inhabitants on lands claimed by them, should within one year pay three pounds per hundred acres for what they held, except those persons who had purchased lands directly of them, previous to the assump-

tion of the town inhabitants or proprietors; the Reverend James Hale was to have free the two hundred acres upon which he had built; sixty acres near the meeting house were to be sequestered for the support of the ministry forever; and ten acres where the meeting house then stood were to be set apart for a green or common; all of which should be free of any claim on the part of the previous claimants, who in turn were to hold the remaining lands in their claim without taxation. As to the claim of James Corbin and others a considerable part of their land was already sold to and occupied by about twenty inhabitants, amounting to 10,770 acres; it was accordingly agreed that such sales should stand, and of the 6,000 acres still unappropriated in that tract 2,500 acres should be confirmed to Corbin and company, and the remainder was to be sequestered to the common use of the inhabitants. Of the New Scituate tract, which contained 9,600 acres, 5,726 acres had already been appropriated by the inhabitants, and after deducting the reserves for ministers, ministry and common, there remained 3,374 acres to be occupied or disposed of by the claimants.

The report of the committee was presented to the general court, October 20th, 1719, and by that body accepted and confirmed. The Stoddard tract was undisturbed by these controversies. The assembly had already confirmed this land to Mr. Stoddard, and the town recognized his claim, while he in turn recognized the jurisdiction of the town by paying his taxes as other proprietors of lands did. In 1716 Mr. Anthony Stoddard conveyed this tract to his sons, Anthony, David and William. The first settler upon it was John Chapman, who took what was delicately termed "irregular possession," in 1714, but was numbered among the regular inhabitants of the town. William Chapman, Benjamin Wilson and John Perry bought land in this tract in 1718. Captain John Chandler bought the strip lying west of the Natchaug and sold it out to settlers. The remainder of this land was long left vacant and unimproved, its owners paying their rates duly and manifesting an interest in the affairs of the town.

An unusual instance of disorder and the subverting of the ends of government appears in the annals of this town, about the years 1721 and 1722. By the act of 1714 an unusual liberty was allowed in the qualification of voters. This was on account of the few inhabitants then in the town. As long as everything

was harmonious this liberality in suffrage qualifications gave rise to no difficulty, but at the time spoken of a faction of ignorant and irresponsible men arose with such power that one Arthur Humphrey, their leader, was elected a selectman, whereupon the other members of that body refused to act, and for a time the affairs of the town were at the mercy of this faction, which opposed all schools, broke up one that had already been established, warned the schoolmaster out of town, prosecuted the refractory selectmen to their great cost and trouble, made a scandalously unjust and imperfect rate list, and by other outrageous acts kept the town in a ferment of agitation. The matter was at length appealed to the assembly, who confirmed the elections thus far had, but ordered that after that time the usual qualifications required of voters in other towns should be required here.

A full military company was formed in Ashford in 1722, with John Perry for captain, Benjamin Russel for lieutenant and Joshua Kendall for ensign. During these years the people suffered much from Indian alarms, and constant fears stimulated watchfulness to be ready for any outbreak of savage hostility which might appear. Captain Perry proved himself an efficient and courageous officer, and several times furnished the government important information. To prevent as much as possible their approaches under false pretenses Indians were forbidden to hunt in the woods north of the road from Hartford, through Coventry and Ashford, to New Roxbury. A military watch was ordered to be held in Ashford and a scout maintained in the northern part of the town. By these precautions the settlers were protected in a measure, and no disastrous attack of the Indians was experienced.

The population of the town now steadily increased. Joseph Bosworth bought land of Corbin in the eastern part of the town in 1718, and Elias Keyes followed in 1722. In the latter year Edward Sumner of Roxbury, a brother of Samuel Sumner of Pomfret, with two associates bought a thousand acres of land of James Corbin in the eastern part of Ashford. As an inducement to them to settle upon this wild tract of land Mr. Corbin further offered to cover and finish a building, the frame of which already stood upon the land, using boards and shingles, erect a stack of chimneys and finish four rooms within the house and then to deliver annually to them four barrels of good

cider for four years, they to find barrels and send them to his house in Woodstock. Thomas Eaton of Woodstock, a brother of Jonathan Eaton of Killingly, settled in Ashford in 1723. In 1725 Robert Knowlton of Sutton purchased a large tract of land in the southwest part of Ashford, now included in the Knowlton neighborhood, and at once settled upon it, laying out a road on the east side of his farm and freely giving it to the town.

In May, 1725, James Corbin petitioned the general assembly for a patent of confirmation for certain lands in Ashford in place of lands which had been taken from him by the annexation of a strip of Ashford land to the town of Willington. The annexation of that strip to that town had prevented his taking up the twenty-five hundred acres assigned him in the settlement of his claim with Ashford. On the other hand the New Scituate tract, which was now held by Colonel John Chandler, contained 2,476 acres more than the deed called for. Corbin now petitioned that this surplus might be granted to him. A committee appointed by the general court found that the New Scituate land was over measured, and that body on hearing the case decided that the petition of Corbin should be granted, with the proviso, "that all the claimers that have regulated themselves according to the order of the committee in 1719 shall not be prejudiced thereby."

With the commotions created by contests and litigations over the possession of lands and the blighting effects of drouth and other unfavorable conditions, which discouraged the progress of improvement, the town made slow headway with the elements of a growing community. But the completion of the minister's house and the meeting house was persevered in. The assembly had granted the town repeated exemption for many years from paying colony taxes. But whatever financial discouragement assailed them, the people were firm in their determination to maintain the standard of public morals, as far as providing laws and punishments could effect this. A set of "stocks" was erected on the green, in front of the meeting house door, and the town was prompt in prosecuting individuals who neglected their families and thus threatened to bring charges upon the town. Benjamin Russel and others were allowed to build a pound on the meeting house green at their own cost and charge. As foreign cattle continued to trespass upon the commons the town appointed men to drive them out, and in 1734 it was voted, "That

any inhabitant of Ashford that shall take into possession, care or oversight, any neat cattle that don't belong to an inhabitant of Ashford, other than his own proper estate, from the first of April to August, shall forfeit ten shillings to the town for each and every head of neat kine so taken." A cemetery was laid out in 1734. At that time James Beekman, Joseph Whiton and Robert Knowlton were appointed a committee "to lay out a quarter acre of land for a burying place at ye west end of ye town, where people have been buried." A burial place was also ordered in the east of the town. In 1732 the town began to pay colony charges. The rate list of estates for that year amounted to £4,609, 9s. Captain John Perry and Philip Eastman were now chosen to represent the town in the general assembly, and they were continued in that capacity for several years. Up to about this time for many years the town had been in the habit of paying a bounty of twenty shillings a head for every wolf killed. It appears that by the year 1735 the country was so completely rid of these wild animals that the last bounty of this kind was paid in that year.

About the middle of the last century Ashford reached a condition of some prominence and activity. Many new settlers had gained a residence here. Ebenezer Byles, on becoming of age, settled on land which had been purchased by Josiah Byles in 1726, about a mile west of Ashford Green. William Knowlton purchased a farm of four hundred acres in the western part of Ashford. This was in after years divided between his sons Daniel and Thomas, who, after serving brilliantly in the French war, engaged with equal ardor in cultivating their land and discharging the ordinary civil and military duties of good citizens. Ephraim Lyon removed from Woodstock to the eastern part of the town, and was greatly esteemed as a man of shrewdness and sound judgment. Daniel Dow, of Voluntown, settled north of the "green," with a rising family of great promise. David Bolles, of New London, established himself near the present Eastford village, with a license to exercise "the art and mystery of tanning leather," and great skill and experience in working up the same into serviceable shoes. Stephen Keyes, Theophilus Clark, and Amos Babcock were admitted freemen prior to 1760. Samuel Woodcock, of Dedham, succeeded to the farm once held by Jacob Parker, and Jedidiah Dana to that formerly of John Paine. The remaining part of the Stoddard tract fell to Martha, daugh-

ter of Anthony Stoddard, and wife of Captain John Stevens, of Boston, who, in 1757, laid it out and divided it into thirty-one lots or farms, which were sold to John Chapin, Abel Simmons, James Parker, Robert Snow and others. A large and valuable farm, near the site of the present Phoenixville, known as the Beaver Dam farm, was retained and occupied by Captain and Mrs. Stevens, and brought under a high state of cultivation. President Stiles, journeying through Ashford in 1764, was very much interested in Captain Stevens' agricultural operations. He reported him as holding six thousand acres of land in the town; having thirty acres of hemp growing, which required but one man to attend, but employed thirty men in pulling time; and expecting a harvest of twenty tons of hemp and two hundred bushels of seed. The people of the town testified to their respect for these distinguished residents by voting that Captain John Stevens and his family should have liberty to sit in the ministerial pew at church during the pleasure of the town. Captain Benjamin Sumner, Captain Elisha Wales, Elijah Whiton and Amos Babcock were prominent men in the town at that time. The tavern keepers licensed in 1762 were Benjamin Sumner, Joseph Palmer, Benjamin Clark, Jedidiah Fay, Ezra Smith, Samuel Eastman and Elijah Babcock. Solomon Mason had a grist mill, and Amos Babcock kept a store.

The town officers elected in 1760 were: Amos Babcock, Ebenezer Byles, Jedidiah Dana, Captain Benjamin Sumner, Ezra Smith, selectmen; Mr. Byles, town clerk and treasurer; Ezekiel Tiffany, constable and collector for the west end of the town; Samuel Holmes, constable and collector for the middle of the town; Benjamin Russel, constable and collector for the east end of the town, and also collector for colony rates; Timothy Eastman, Josiah Spalding, Benjamin Carpenter, Amasa Watkins, Samuel Allen, Jedidiah Dana, Stephen Abbot, John Bicknell, Benjamin Walker, Jonathan Chaffee, Job Tyler, Benjamin Clark, David Chaffee, William Preston, surveyors of highways; Jonathan Burnham, Josiah Eaton, fence viewers; Benjamin Clark, Josiah Holmes, Benjamin Russel, Jedidiah Blanchard, Asaph Smith, listers; Nehemiah Smith, Jonathan Burnham, grand jurors; Josiah Rogers, Stephen Snow, William Chub, tithingmen; Benjamin Russel, brander, pound keeper and collector of excise; Caleb Hende and Josiah Chaffee, branders and pound keepers; Samuel Snow, sealer of weights and measures; Asaph Smith, sealer of leather.

As a glimpse of some of the difficulties which beset the people of Ashford in those days the following memoranda, made by the town clerk in one of the books of record, are interesting:

"The 5th day of May, 1761, a very stormy day of snow, an awful sight, the trees green and the ground white; the 6th day, the trees in the blow and the fields covered with snow.

"The 19th day of May, 1763, a bad storm of hail and rain, and very cold, following which froze ye ground and puddles of water.

"The 17th day of October, 1763, it snowed, and ye 18th in ye morning the trees and the ground were all covered with ice and snow, which made it look like ye dead of winter."

One of the last general agitations with which the town of Ashford was disturbed, before the great upheaval of the revolution, was an outbreak of land controversy, with respect to the claims of James Corbin and his legal representatives. This broke out afresh about the year 1769. At that time the Corbin claims were represented by Benjamin and Ashael Marcy. An appeal was taken to the assembly, and all the actions of town and assembly since 1719 were reviewed at great length. The assembly decided that 910 acres were still due to Corbin under the settlement of 1719, and 375 acres more under the patent of 1725, which they interpreted as being an addition to the settlement of 1719, and the Macys were authorized to take up land to the amount of such deficiencies, from the commons of the town. But when they began to act under this authority the town prosecuted them in the superior court, and obtained a verdict against them. The Macys then appealed again to the assembly, and that body reversed the decision of the superior court, restoring the Macys to the possession of the land and reimbursement of costs. Thus the question rested until the events of the revolution gave the people questions of deeper import to absorb their attention.

As early as 1767, when the oppressive acts of parliament were being discussed as vital questions in the colonies, Ashford held a meeting December 14th, and appointed some of its trustworthy citizens, Elisha Wales, Benjamin Clark, Benjamin Russel, Elijah Whiton and Benjamin Sumner, "to be a committee to correspond with other committees in the county and elsewhere, to encourage and help forward manufactures and a spirit of industry in this government." In regard to the non-importation agreement of 1769, and the violation of it by some, the people of

this town, in response to a call for a convention of delegates at New Haven, in 1770, to consider the public welfare in regard to the matter, gave the following expression of their sentiments:

“Our utmost effort shall be put forth in vindication of the Non-importation Agreement, as a measure without which the safety and prosperity of the Colonies cannot be supported.

“That peddlers who, without law or license, go about the country selling wares, are a nuisance to the public, and, if in our power, shall be picked up and put to hard labor, and compelled to earn their bread in the house of correction.

“We highly resent every breach of the Non-importation Agreement, and are always ready to let our resentment fall upon those who are so hardy and abandoned as to violate the same.

“It is our earnest desire that every town in this Colony, and in every Colony in America, would explicitly and publicly disclose their sentiments relating to the Non-importation Agreement and the violations thereof.

“That the infamous conduct of the Yorkers in violating the patriotic engagements of the merchants, is a daring insult upon the spirit and understanding of the country, an open contempt of every benevolent and patriotic sentiment, and an instance of treachery and wickedness sufficient to excite astonishment in every witnessing mind, and we doubt not but their actions will appear infamous till the ideas of virtue are obliterated in the human mind, and the advocates of liberty and patriotism are persecuted out of the world.

“That if the people of America properly attend to the concern of salvation, and (unitedly) resolve upon an unshaken perseverance in the affair of non-importation till there is a total repeal of the revenue acts and an ample redress of American grievances, we shall be a free and flourishing people.

“In consequence of the above resolutions we have chosen Captain Benjamin Clark to attend the general meeting of the mercantile and landed interests at New Haven—the sense of the town as above—and to use his utmost influence to establish in the most solid and durable form the Non-importation Agreement.”

At the same meeting a committee, consisting of Elisha Wales, Benjamin Clark and Samuel Snow, was appointed to see that no trade in imported goods was carried on in Ashford in violation of the non-importation agreement.

Later on, when the war clouds began to thicken, in the summer of 1774, Ashford appointed as its committee of correspondence, to act with similar committees from other towns, for the general good, the following men: Jedidiah Fay, Captain Ichabod Ward, Captain Elisha Wales, Benjamin Sumner, Amos Babcock and Ingoldsby Work. Sympathy was expressed on behalf of the blockaded and oppressed Boston people by following the example of Windham in sending a fine flock of sheep for the relief of the distressed city. During the troublous years of the war Ashford suffered in common with other towns of the county, and contributed her share of men and means to carry forward the common cause. The sound sense of political economy with which her people were inspired is shown in the following instructions given October 3d, 1783, by Ashford town meeting, to Simeon Smith and Isaac Perkins, her representatives in the assembly:

"1. Oppose all encroachments of Congress upon the sovereignty and jurisdiction of separate States, and the assumption of power not expressly vested in them by Articles of Confederation.

"2. Inquire into the very interesting question whether Congress was authorized by the Federal Constitution to grant half-pay for life, and five years full pay to officers---and if the measure be ill-founded, attempt every constitutional method for its removal.

"3. Promote a strict inquiry into public and private expenditures, and bring to a speedy account delinquents and defaulters.

"4. Use your endeavors that vacant lands be appropriated for the general benefit of the United States.

"5. Pay particular attention to the regulation and encouragement of commerce, agriculture, arts and manufactures.

"6. We instruct you to use your influence for the suppression of placemen, pensioners and all unnecessary officers.

"7. Also, to use your influence to promote the passing an act in the Assembly to enable Congress to lay an impost on the importation of foreign articles.

"And, finally, we instruct you to move in the Assembly that the laws for the promotion of virtue and good manners and the suppression of vice, may be attended to, and enforced, and any other means tending to promote a general reformation of manners."

The population of Ashford in 1775 was 2,228 whites and 13 negroes. The grand list at that time amounted to £17,273, 11d. 3d. Captain Benjamin Sumner was at that time a very prominent citizen of the town. Josias Byles succeeded Isaac Perkins as town clerk and treasurer, in 1780. The selectmen in 1783 were Esquire Perkins, Captain Reuben Marcy, Captain David Bolles, Lieutenant John Warren and Edward Sumner. Other officers then were: David Brown, Jedidiah Ward, Ebenezer Bosworth, Ebenezer Mason, constables and collectors; Ephraim Lyon, Joshua Kendall, Ephraim Spalding, Amasa Watkins, Jacob Chapman, Thomas Ewing, Jonathan Chaffee, Timothy Babcock, Isaac Kendall, Captain Samuel Smith, Medina Preston, John Loomis, Ephraim Walker and Stephen Snow, highway surveyors; Medina Preston, Samuel Spring, Abel Simmons, Deacon Chapman and Josias Byles, grand jurors. At this time the selectmen were directed to provide a work-house in which idle, lazy and impotent persons were to be taken care of and under the direction of the selectmen they were to be put to work. A committee was at the same time appointed to look after schools.

One of the memorable events in the history of Ashford was the visit of General Washington, while on his presidential tour in 1789. Leaving Uxbridge before sunrise, Saturday, November 7th, they breakfasted at a tavern kept by one Jacobs, in Thompson—the well-known half-way house between Boston and Hartford—and thence proceeded on the road to Pomfret. Major Jackson and Private Secretary Lear occupied the state carriage with the president, and four servants followed on horseback. No one knew of the coming of such a distinguished party through the town, so the people were not prepared to see him, and only those who happened to be in the way were fortunate enough to get a glimpse of the nation's chieftain.

At Grosvenor's, in Pomfret, they paused for refreshment and rest, and to inquire for General Putnam, whom Washington had hoped to see here, and which indeed had been one of the objects in coming this road, but finding the distance to his residence too great to be covered without disarranging his plans, Washington abandoned the idea of seeing Putnam, and continued on the main road eight miles further, to Perkins' tavern in Ashford, where he remained over the Sabbath. The diary of the president speaks of this tavern as "not a good one," a remark which he

frequently found appropriate to the taverns he found on his way, and as he was not writing for publication he had no scruples against candidly noting it in his private memorandum. Tradition gives few details or incidents of this visit. Washington, it is said, attended church, and occupied the most honored seat in the house of worship, and Mr. Pond and the town officials doubtless paid their respects, but the Sabbath-keeping etiquette of the time did not permit any formal demonstration, and he was probably allowed to spend the day in peace and quiet after his own taste. His visit here is said to have aroused the jealous indignation of the people of Windham town. They declared in reference to the president that he had "gone back and stole away from ye people, going by a by-road through Ashford to avoid pomp and parade."

Ashford was favored with a post office as early as 1803. David Bolles, Jr., was appointed first postmaster. The usual representatives of the town in assembly about that time were William Walker, Abel Simmons, Jr., Josias Byles and John Palmer. An instance of the natural aversion to anything like corrupt measures in political campaigns, with which the people were imbued is seen in the fact that the election of Mr. Jason Woodward in 1802 was contested on the ground that he had obtained it "by distributing liquor; had treated the selectmen with four bowls of sling, and given to the people about his store four bottles of liquor," but fortunately for him and the credit of the town, the charges were not substantiated in the evidence. In the census of 1800 this town is reported as having a population of 2,445, and a grand list of \$61,367.41.

A number of taverns were kept during the early years of the century, by Messrs. Clark, Richmond, Palmer, Preston, Burnham, Howe, Woodward and others. In 1818 there were in the town eight mercantile stores, six grain mills, nine saw mills and five tanneries. Josias Byles was still continued in the office of town clerk, and David Bolles and his son retained the post office. The town now had seven churches, and some manufacturing was carried on. Four carding machines had been set up in different parts of the town. Rufus Sprague, Edward Keyes, John N. Sumner, Benjamin and Mason Palmer were incorporated in 1815 as the Sprague Manufacturing Company, for the manufacture of cotton wool into yarn or cloth. Read, Stebins & Co., engaged in a woolen factory, advertising the same

year for eight or ten young men to learn to card, spin and weave. Benjamin Palmer also engaged in the manufacture of tin ware, which he offered, of any description, plain or japanned, as low as any one in the state.

A probate district was organized here and the office established in Ashford village in 1830. David Bolles was made probate judge, but he died during the year mentioned, and the office was then placed in the hands of his successor in legal practice, Ichabod Bulkley.

In the march of modern improvement and change, Ashford seems to have suffered somewhat. Railroads have evaded this section. Her advantage of position on the great thoroughfare of New York and Boston travel by turnpike and wagon road is a thing of the past. But Ashford may cherish an honorable record in the past, and many honorable names in the country have had their ancestral roots here. Her living sons are found everywhere outside of their own town. One of these wandering sons, who achieved success and fortune, has shown his interest in his birthplace by devising liberal things for its benefit—leaving it the sum of six thousand dollars, the income of which is to be expended upon its musical and intellectual culture. The Babcock Brass Band, with facilities for continued improvement, the Babcock Library, free to all the inhabitants of the town, have resulted from this considerate bequest of Archibald Babcock, late of Charlestown, Mass. With such substantial remembrances from those who owe it allegiance, it may be hoped that the home of Knowlton, Dana, the Notts, the Bolleses, and other illustrious sons, will continue to maintain an honorable position among its sister towns.

In the early years of settlement the Connecticut Path was the only recognized highway or thoroughfare by which this town was approached or had communication with the outside world. But the need of more accommodations in the line of roads and bridges was soon felt, and commendable effort was made to supply this need. In 1728 it was voted "that the town will butt the west end of the lower or south bridge over Bigelow River from the land part to the stream with solid work with stones, or logs, or both, and if the bridge over the stream be judged defective, then to build it all anew." All the inhabitants of the town were warned to assist in repairing this bridge. A cart bridge over Bigelow river was also ordered "by Humphrey's

saw mill," as well as a bridge over Mount Hope river, on the Hartford road. Another bridge was ordered to be built "over the great brook by Daniel Bugbee's meadow," and also a horse bridge over Mount Hope river, in Corbin's land.

During the years that followed the town was greatly interested in the improvement of its public highways. Toward the close of the century a committee was appointed to confer with a committee appointed by the assembly "to lay out a highway from East Hartford to Massachusetts or Rhode Island line." The Boston Turnpike Company was incorporated in 1797, and within two or three years the great Boston and Hartford turnpike, running through Mansfield, Ashford, Pomfret and Thompson, was completed and opened to the public. James Gordon, Shubael Abbe and Ebenezer Devotion were appointed to oversee repairs, gates and collections on this road. About half a mile to the east of Ashford village, this road connected with another great turnpike leading to Providence, constructed a few years later by the Connecticut and Rhode Island Turnpike Company. Unlike some other towns, Ashford made no opposition to these improvements, but willingly paid the needful impost to gain better accommodations and increased travel. Daily stages passing to and fro over these roads gave the town quite a busy air. Chaises and other vehicles were now coming into vogue. A large amount of freight was carried over the turnpikes. The numerous taverns needed to supply the wants of travelers and teamsters were kept by Jedidiah Fay, Benjamin Clark, Isaac Perkins, Josiah Ward, William Snow, Josiah Converse, Stephen Snow and Samuel Spring. The Woodstock and Somers turnpike was completed during the early years of the present century, as was also the Tolland County turnpike, which intersected the Boston and Hartford turnpike, two miles west of Ashford village. Travel on these thoroughfares was stimulated by the war of 1812, and by the manufacturing industries of neighboring towns. Stages were daily passing to and fro over the various roads, and at the junction of the Boston and Providence turnpikes a continuous line of vehicles as far as the eye could reach could frequently be seen.

During the early years of Ashford town life the question of maintaining schools received some backward blows. A party of ignorant and unenterprising men succeeded for a time in holding the control of the public voice so far as to prevent a school

being kept up. In 1722 the town voted "not to be at the expense of hiring a schoolmaster." This state of affairs, however, did not continue for any great length of time. In October, 1723, a schoolmaster was hired by the town to keep school half a year. In 1726 the public interest was bending all its energies toward completing its meeting house, and in the pressure of economy for that purpose it was decided to "wave having a schoolmaster." But this suspension of the school was probably for only a short time. In 1727 we find the schoolmaster in the town, an active factor in society, in the person of John Andrews.

In 1734 the one schoolmaster for the town was replaced by three "school-dames," for the three sections. These were described as follows: "One school to be east side of Bigelow river; one to suite the middle of the town; one west side of Mount Hope river." A committee of three in each section was selected to attend to the business. The "school-dames" employed that year were a Mrs. Chapman, Ann Eaton and Sarah Bugbee, and their pay was for each of them, four pounds for three months. In 1735 Samuel Snow, Edward Tiffany and Thomas Corbin were allowed to build a school house at their own cost and charge, on the meeting house green, south of the Hartford and west of the Mansfield road. A schoolmaster was hired to teach three months at each end of the town. In 1737 he was hired for nine months; in 1739 for a year, he to find house room wherever practicable. Arrangements were now in progress for procuring suitable school houses. An agreement was entered into with Mr. Stoddard, by which, in consideration of the recognition by the town of his claim to 8,864 acres of land within its limits, he gave two hundred acres of land for school purposes. January 1st, 1739, this land was ordered to be sold and the money to be placed at interest for the benefit of a religious school in Ashford forever. The minimum valuation fixed upon it by the town was four hundred pounds. Afterward the town was divided into three districts for school purposes, each of which should pay its own expenses. These districts were respectively Eastford, Ashford and Westford. A rate of £150 was soon after ordered to build a school house in each section. Under this new arrangement Elijah Whiton and John Griggs were the first schoolmasters of which we find any mention. The salary of the former was thirteen pounds for two months' school service and

boarding himself. Mr. Knowlton was one of the public spirited men of the town, and was deeply interested in behalf of the schools. When he was chosen deputy to the general assembly in 1751 he begged the privilege of bestowing fifty shillings upon the school instead of investing it in the "treat" to the company which the custom of the day required in return for such an honor as he enjoyed. In the following spring he made a voluntary gift of twelve pounds "old tenor" to the school.

In February, 1716, the foundations of a civil settlement having been partly laid in prospective Ashford, it was voted that the meeting house be built first, that is, before the minister's house. The dimensions of this house were forty feet long, thirty-five feet wide and eighteen feet high. The wages paid the men who did the work of building were three shilling a day for the master mechanic, two shillings nine pence a day for journeymen hewers, and two shillings a day for ordinary laborers. The price of board for a mechanic then was four shillings and six pence a week. In the mean time a committee empowered by the town to secure the services of a minister obtained Mr. James Hale, of Swansea, a graduate of Harvard in 1703, who served the people, and at the organization of a church became pastor. They gave him for settlement a salary of forty pounds a year for three years, after which it was increased annually for seven years till it reached sixty pounds, besides his firewood and a hundred acres of land. They also agreed to build him a two-story house "with a twenty foot room in it." This room is supposed to have been intended and used for public worship until the completion of the meeting house. The meeting house does not seem to have been carried forward to completion from the start.

November 26th, 1718, a church was formally organized in Ashford by Reverend Josiah Dwight, Mr. Samuel Whiting and Joseph Meacham, of Coventry. Mr. Hale was ordained pastor, and the following men subscribed to the articles of covenant: James Hale, John Mixer, William Ward, Joseph Grecn, Isaac Magoon, Matthew Thompson, William Chapman, Benjamin Russel, Daniel Fuller, Isaac Kendall, John Pitts, Nathaniel Fuller and John Perry. On December 9th following the female members named hereafter were added to the number of original names: Sarah Hale, Abigail Mixer, Judith Ward, Mary Fuller, Mary Russel, Elizabeth Squier, Mary Fuller, Mrs. William Chapman

and the Widow Dimick. December 21st, Elinor Kendall and Sarah Bugbee were added to the number. John Mixer was made the first deacon. In September, 1721, he being about to remove from the town, his place was filled by the election of Isaac Kendall and Joseph Bugbee. "Brother John Perry" was at this time chosen "to set the psalm with respect to public singing." The meeting house had been finished sufficiently to afford a place to hold services in, but it remained unfinished inside until 1723, when it was decided as desirable to finish with "plaster and whitewash all the lower part of the meeting house to the lower girth." Among the furniture of the house was an hour-glass, for which Nathaniel Fuller was allowed two shillings. The finish of the interior, however, was delayed many years, and the privileges of pews and the orderly seating of the congregation according to the ideas and usages of those days, were questions frequently under discussion and subject to various and often opposing decisions. It was evidently a hard struggle for existence with the first church of Ashford. There were discordant elements in the population, and a factor of ignorance laid obstacles in the way. Taxes were laid, school questions were set aside, remarkable privileges were granted, all to help forward the matter of church and minister's house and support, the South church of Boston donated fifteen pounds to help this church, but with all the means used and efforts made the work was backward.

The memorandum of a fact which has no essential relation to this church appears on its records, and for want of a more appropriate place at command in which to preserve it, we take the liberty of digressing a moment to mention it. In the records of Mr. Hale appears this statement: "The great earthquake on the Lord's day evening, October 29, 1727, was in an awakening manner felt in this town, as also the terrible storm of wind and hail the September before."

The discipline of the church was preserved with very much of the mint-tithing exactness which was characteristic of the period, while much liberality was exercised with regard to some matters which are now considered as of great practical importance. For example, on one occasion Ephraim Bemis was charged with selling strong liquor in small quantities upon a certain occasion, and the question was raised as to whether he was guilty of a "confessable fault" in so doing, but the church

decided in the negative. In 1739 the meeting house needed extensive repairs. At that time the salary of the minister was raised to £100 a year. Mr. Hale suffered failing health for some time, and measures were taken to supply his place temporarily. But his pastorate closed with his death, November 22d, 1742, he being in the fifty-eighth year of his age. His successor was Reverend John Bass, of Braintree, who was installed September 7th, 1743.

In the time of the great revival of 1740 to 1750, Solomon Paine and other itinerants extended their labors to this field, and many of their hearers embraced Separate or New Light principles. These Separatists were divided on the question of baptism, making two factions, while the orthodox church people were also divided into the rigidly Calvinistic and the liberal classes, and thus four quite distinct factions existed in Ashford.

The methods and action of these Baptists and Separatists were very offensive to the strict church people, and the preaching of Solomon Paine especially was so obnoxious that efforts were made to stop him by legal process. February 15th, 1745, while Paine was preaching in a private house, complaint was made to Justice Tiffany, who, upon searching his legal authority, was clearly convinced "that it was an unlawful meeting for Paine to come to Ashford to preach and exhort," and thereupon granted a warrant for his arrest. Constable Bemis went to the house to serve it. Taking hold of Paine he told him that he had no right to preach, and that he must go before the justice to answer for his unlawful preaching. Paine vehemently stigmatized the law as being suggested by the Devil, and refused to respect it or obey the summons. Bemis then called upon several persons to assist him, who at first refused, but when reminded that the law had a penalty for such refusal, they "gently took Paine from the stage whereon he was preaching, and carried him out of the door and set him down." But Paine stubbornly refused to go before the justice, whereupon "they took him in a very gentle way and set him on a horse and led him to Justice Tiffany's," where he was appropriately rebuked and then dismissed. The arresting party was afterward indicted for a riot, in which the charge set forth "that with riotous intent and with force and arms they did assault the person of said Solomon Paine, and pulled him onto the floor and carried him half a mile distant, to his great hurt and abuse and the disturbance of others." The

county court acquitted them, but adjudged that they should pay costs, but on their appeal to the general assembly, this charge was also remitted. The church now enjoyed a season of quiet, during which, in 1747, some considerable repairs were made on the meeting house. But the question of the orthodoxy of Mr. Bass soon arose and gave occasion for prolonged disquietude. Councils were frequently called to investigate his orthodoxy. A final council, which met June 4th, 1751, found sufficient ground for their action, and dissolved the pastoral relation between him and the Ashford church, and Mr. Bass withdrew, leaving the church divided in sentiment and opinion, a strong party in it being in sympathy with the deposed pastor and his views. The church was much divided, and a number of efforts were made to secure society privileges in the eastern and northern parts of the town, but without success. Meanwhile repeated attempts were made to get a minister who could secure favor among the differing factions sufficiently strong to obtain a call to the pastorate. Among the ministers who thus passed in review before this now hypercritical congregation were Daniel Pond, David Ripley, Messrs. Mills and Elderkin, Stephen Holmes, Daniel Kirtland, Nehemiah Barker and Elijah Blake. At length, after six years of commotion and discord, Mr. Timothy Allen succeeded in obtaining a call, and was ordained pastor of the church and town October 12th, 1757. He was a powerful and fervent preacher, of decided "New Light" proclivities. The northwest inhabitants were also favored with two months' preaching in the winter, paid out of the common fund. This concession encouraged the people of that locality to press their claims for more distinct society privileges, which, after much agitation of the question, were granted by the assembly in October, 1765. The bounds of Westford society thus formed were "from the northwest corner of said township five and one fourth miles south on the west line of said town, from thence a strait line to the crotch of Mount Hope river, and thence a strait line to John Dimmock's south line, where said line crosses Bigelow river, thence north on said Bigelow river to Union line."

The town of Ashford at that time contained forty thousand acres, and a valuation on its grand list of £13,700. The Westford Society thus formed included thirteen thousand three hundred acres, eighty families and a valuation of £3,500. The proposition to set off Eastford as a distinct society, with bound-

aries substantially as they now appear with reference to the town, was agitated at the same time, but was not carried into effect until October, 1777, when that society was granted distinct privileges.

The preaching of Reverend Mr. Allen was not agreeable to the people, and he became unpopular and his salary fell short. To make up the deficit he engaged in trading in land, and here he became involved in debt and his creditors sent him to jail. A council was called, which dismissed him from his pastorate, though clearing him from every serious charge. Several years passed before the settlement of his successor could be effected. During this interval the church was greatly weakened and scattered, but still continued in its efforts to secure a minister and preserve order. Baptisms were administered from time to time by the neighboring ministers. Days of fasting and prayer were held in 1766 and 1768, "for direction and assistance in the affair of choosing a minister," and church and society at length happily united in choice of Reverend James Messinger of Wrentham, a graduate of Harvard College, who was installed into the pastorate February 15th, 1769. Under the leadership of this "much beloved spiritual guide," as he was called, the church increased in numbers, and regained something of its primitive standing, despite the political distractions of the times. The venerable Isaac Kendall, who had served the church as deacon, through the changes and pastorates, from its organization, died October 8th, 1773, in the eighty-eighth year of his age, and the fifty-second year of his deaconship. Benjamin Sumner, one of the fathers of the town, Jedidiah Dana and John Wright, also served as deacons. Deacon Elijah Whiton was dismissed to the church in Westford society.

Mr. Messinger died while in the service of this church, and his place remained vacant for several years, when Reverend Enoch Pond was ordained and installed over the church September 16th, 1789. He was a native of Wrentham and a graduate of Brown University. Possessing unusual ability and cultivation, he gained great influence over his people, and enjoyed a harmonious pastorate. Ebenezer Mason and Isaac Perkins were chosen deacons in 1789, and upon the death of the latter in 1795, they were succeeded by Matthew Reed and David Brown. The old meeting house, having now been in use seventy years, was enlarged and thoroughly repaired. A revival

of religious interest soon followed the settlement of Mr. Pond, and about sixty persons were added to the church. Mr. Pond closed his labors with the close of his life August 6th, 1807. His epitaph, written by Reverend David Avery, thus estimates him:

“Generous in temper, correct in science and liberal in sentiment, the gentleman, the scholar, and the minister of the sanctuary, appeared with advantage in Mr. Pond. The church and society in Ashford were favored with his Gospel ministry eighteen years.”

His successor was Reverend Philo Judson of Woodbury, who was ordained and installed September 26th, 1811, and enjoyed a successful ministry for a still longer period. He was released from his charge in 1833. His immediate successor, Reverend Job Hall of Pomfret, remained but three years. He was succeeded by Reverend Charles Hyde of Norwich, who was installed pastor of this church February 21st, 1838. Matthew Reed and Elisha Byles were chosen deacons in 1825. After the death of Deacon Kendall in 1829, his son of the same name was chosen to fill his place, being the third Isaac Kendall who had occupied the deacons' seat, and the fifth of the name in direct succession to occupy the Kendall homestead of 1714. A new meeting house was erected on the previous site in 1830.

Reverend Job Hall, the seventh pastor, was ordained January 15th, 1834. He was born in Pomfret May 11th, 1802, graduated at Amherst, 1830, dismissed July 17th, 1837, after a ministry of a little more than three years. Nineteen were added to the church during his ministry. He retired to a farm in Orwell, Vt., where he died a few years since, much respected in the community where the closing years of his life were spent. Reverend Charles Hyde, the eighth pastor, was installed February 21st, 1838, and dismissed at his own request, and greatly to the regret of his people, June 26th, 1845. During his ministry of seven years and four months, ninety-one members were added to the church. He left to accept a call to Central Falls, R. I., where he remained for several years. After his dismissal from this parish, he labored for a time in South Coventry, but failing health compelled him to give up the work of the active ministry. The ninth pastor was Reverend Charles Peabody, a native of Peterboro, N. H., born July 1st, 1810, graduated at Williams, 1838, at Andover, 1841; settled in Biddeford, Me., where he re-

mained till June, 1843. He was next installed in Barrington, R. I., where he labored till 1846; installed in Ashford, January 20th, 1847, where he continued three years and eight months. Twenty-seven were added to the church during his ministry. His next field was Windsor, then Pownal, Vt. He then returned to Biddeford, where he labored till 1866, then to Eliot, Me. Several years since he retired to Longmeadow, Mass., where he still resides. The tenth and last installed pastor was Reverend Charles Chamberlain, who graduated at Brown University, and was for a time a tutor in that institution. He was first settled in Auburn, Mass.; installed in Ashford, June 8th, 1854, dismissed March 29th, 1858. Twenty were added to the church during his ministry of nearly four years. Soon after his dismissal, he was installed in Eastford. He afterward labored in East Granby, where he died suddenly a few years since.

Among those who have labored as acting pastors or stated supplies, are Reverends George Soule, Thomas Dutton, Stephen Barnard, Benjamin B. Hopkinson, Andrew Montgomery, Charles P. Grosvenor, O. S. Morris, and S. M. May. In 1886 Nathaniel Kingsbury commenced his labors with this church, and the Baptist church in Warrenville, and continues with this church in his labors. Only one of all the ten pastors of this church, Reverend C. Peabody, is now living. Four of the acting pastors, Soule, Dutton, Barnard and Morris, have finished their work. The deacons of the church have been: John Mixer, Isaac Kendall, Josiah Bugbee, Jonathan Avery, Jedidiah Dana, Elijah Whiton, John Wright, Benjamin Sumner, Nathaniel Loomis, Ebenezer Mason, Isaac Perkins, Matthew Reed, David Brown, Isaac Kendall, Zachariah Bicknell, Matthew Reed, Elisha Byles, Isaac Kendall (the fourth Isaac Kendall in a direct line), Reuben Marcy, Royal Keith, Samuel L. Hough, James G. Gaylord, James Trowbridge, Andrew H. Byles and John A. Brown, the two last named now serving in this office.

The present meeting house was built in 1830, three years after Mr. Judson's dismissal. The choir occupied the gallery back of the pulpit, looking down upon the head of the minister, where they were able to judge quite accurately, if he preached any sermons yellow from age. After a time the meeting house underwent thorough renovation. The gallery was closed up behind the pulpit, the pulpit lowered, the singers' gallery removed to the rear of the audience room, the large choir filling well the

seats, occupying the entire breadth of the meeting house. About two years since the audience room was again remodelled, the pulpit giving place to a preacher's desk. This was placed in the rear part of the room, the singers on the east side, at the preacher's left hand, the slips changed to face the preacher and singers in their new location, and the audience room is completed with much taste and beauty. Whether the "progress of the age" will compel new changes in the future, who can tell? It now seems in too good taste to demand further improvements.

Until Reverend Mr. Allen's dismissal, there had been but one Congregational church and society within the eight miles square of the town. The town had before, for several years, voted preaching for two or three months (probably the winter months) to the people of the northwest part of the town, and employed a preacher for them; but they belonged to the center, and came to the meeting for the greater part of the year. After Mr. Allen's dismissal, the town by amicable agreement in town meeting, was divided into three ecclesiastical societies—the East, the Center and the West. The aim was to give the same amount of territory to each. The Westford society was incorporated in October, 1765, the church in February, 1768. At first, meetings were held in private houses, notices of the meetings to be given at Solomon Mason's mills and Zephaniah Davison's shop. December 9th, 1765, it was also voted to build a meeting house, and hire preaching; to raise a tax of two pence to pay for preaching; that the meetings should begin the first Sabbath of April; that Esquire Whiton should procure a minister; and that Ebenezer Dimmock, Christopher Davison, Manasseh Farnum and Joseph Barney be a committee to count the cost. A minister was procured according to vote—the society further voted to meet at Captain Ward's for divine worship during his pleasure. June 7th, it was voted to choose a committee of three able and judicious men to fix a place for the meeting house, also five more, viz., Ezra Smith, Samuel Eastman, Benjamin Walker, Christopher Davison and Samuel Knox, to notify the first and "get them out." Negotiations were then opened with certain proprietors in Brimfield, Mass., and a convenient meeting house frame which they had given up was purchased for thirty pounds, provided the same could be taken down without damage. This was successfully accomplished, and was

safely on the ground in Westford by June 13th. The quality of the *liquor* to be furnished for the raising brought out as earnest discussion almost as the fitness of a ministerial candidate. It was first voted to have *gin*, but this vote was soon rescinded and it was decided to have a barrel of the best *West India rum*, and one quarter of a barrel of sugar, the best in quality, for the raising. Ensign Walker was to provide the same, and money was taken from the treasury of the society to pay the bill. "Under this potent stimulant the meeting house was raised without apparent accident, and hurried on to completion, workmen being allowed two shillings and six pence per day, they victualing themselves, and two shillings during the winter." After hearing several candidates, Ebenezer Martin, of Canada parish, was invited to preach for the winter.

February 11th, 1768, was set apart as a day of solemn fasting and prayer, in order to the gathering of a church and settling a minister. Reverend Gideon Noble of Willington, conducted the service, assisted by Deacon Nathaniel Loomis, and Deacons Wright and Dana from the old Ashford church. A suitable covenant was prepared and subscribed by James Ould, Ezekiel Tiffany, Ezekiel Holt, Elijah Whiton, Joseph Barney, Ezra Smith, James Whiton, Joseph Whiton, Benjamin Walker, Thomas Chapman, Manasseh Farnum, John Smith, Jonathan Abbe and Joseph Chaffee. At a meeting of the church four days later it was voted to call the Reverend Ebenezer Martin to settle in the gospel ministry in this place, at which time the covenant was probably signed by the pastor elect and the following brethren, viz: Joseph Whiton, David Chaffee, Ebenezer Walker, Christopher Davison and Jonathan Chaffee. The wives of many of these brethren, together with Stephen Nott, Daniel Eldridge, Hezekiah Eldridge, Ichabod Ward, David Kendall and Jacob Fuller were ere long added, making a membership of fifty-five. The society concurred in the call to Mr. Martin, offering sixty poundssalary, rising to seventy, paid half in money, half in produce, viz., wheat, 'Indian corn, oats, pork and beef. Twenty pounds in land and sixty pounds toward building a dwelling house, secured acceptance of the call, and on June 15th he was ordained with the usual solemnities. Work on the meeting house was slowly carried forward. A large number of inhabitants received liberty to build stables for their horses on the meeting house green, provided they were "set so as not to en-

croach on any road." June 14th, 1770, a meeting was held in the meeting house to hear the report of the pew committee. Each pew was to be occupied by two families. Forty inhabitants, highest on the list, were to draw said pews according to their lists; build the pews and ceil the gallery girths. This report was accepted and the pews were distributed as follows: 1. Benjamin Walker, Elijah Whiton; 2. Ebenezer Dimmock, Ichabod Ward; 3. Thomas Chapman, Ebenezer Walker; 4. Joseph Woodward, Zaccheus Hill; 5. Ezra Smith, Ebenezer Walker; 6. David Chaffee, William Thompson; 7. David Robbins, George Smith; 8. Adonijah Baker, Josiah Chaffee; 9. John Warren, Josiah Rogers; 10. Ezekiel Tiffany, Benjamin Chaffee; 11. Jedidiah Blanchard, Benjamin Walker, Jr.; 12. William Henfield, James Whiton; 13. Samuel Eastman, Henry Works; 14. James Averill, Job Tyler; 15. Ezekiel Holt, David Chaffee; 16. James Ould, Stephen Coye; 17. Abijah Brooks, Simon Smith; 18. Ephraim Walker, Jonathan Abbe; 19. Jacob Fuller, William Preston. Probably the 20th seat was for the minister's family.

Among newly arrived families, bringing them additional strength, was that of Stephen Nott, the father of sons of great promise, and Doctor Thomas Huntington of Lebanon, who proved a most valuable acquisition to both the society and the town.

In March, 1778, Reverend Elisha Hutchinson was ordained the second minister in Westford. His ministry seems to have been quite brief for these early times. Reverend William Storrs, the third pastor, was a native of Mansfield; ordained in Westford, November 10th, 1790. His was a long and successful ministry. He died while pastor in Westford, greatly loved and lamented by his people. Reverend Luke Wood of Waterbury, the fourth pastor in Westford, was installed December 13th, 1826. He seems to have been a good minister, useful in his work, but after a few years he left for other fields of labor. After he left Reverend Alvan Underwood labored for several years as acting pastor, without installation. His labors were quite successful, and he was highly esteemed by his ministerial brethren, and among the churches. For brief periods Reverend Mr. Hurd, who afterward labored in the West, and Mr. Langdon were acting pastors. Reverend Charles S. Adams, the fifth and last installed pastor in Westford, of Roxbury, Mass., was installed January 7th, 1846, Reverend Richard S. Storrs, D.D., of

Braintree, a relative of a former pastor, preaching the sermon of installation. At the same time the new meeting house was dedicated, Reverend Roswell Whitmore of West Killingly, a native of Westford, preaching the sermon of dedication. At the laying of the corner stone Reverend Charles Hyde of Ashford, and Reverend Francis Williams of Chaplin, assisted Mr. Adams in the public services of the occasion. Mr. Adams commenced his labors in Westford, September 15th, 1844, but was not installed until the new meeting house was built. This delay was deemed best by him and his people, as the old meeting house was in a dilapidated condition, and they fully intended to build, but could not at once unite upon the location of the new house of worship. Mr. Adams taught a select school during a part of his ministry in Westford, affording superior facilities for the education of his own children and of other young people in the vicinity. After laboring with this people for fourteen years he was dismissed, and commenced laboring soon after in Strongsville, O. He afterward labored in Michigan, but failing health compelled him to retire from the active labors of the ministry. As he neared the close of life, his wife, worn with taking care of her husband, was taken with disease which soon terminated in her death, a few hours before his own. He knew she was too ill to watch at his bedside, but in his low state it was not thought best to inform him of her departure. He expressed bright hopes for his own home above, but said his only anxiety was for his poor wife, whom he must leave not so well provided for in the things of this world as he could wish. How glad must have been his surprise to find her ready to welcome him to the new home, having reached it a few hours before his arrival. One funeral service, and the husband and wife who had long walked life's journey together, were laid to rest in one common grave. Neither sadly mourned the departure of the other.

Thus every pastor who has been settled over the people in Westford has closed his labors upon earth. Since the labors of Mr. Adams closed in Westford the pulpit has been supplied by acting pastors, whose labors have continued only for a few years each with this people, Reverend Messrs. Griswold, Kinney, Beman, White, Allen and John R. Freeman, who died while in service, and is buried in the beautiful cemetery in Westford. Reverend Oscar Bissell has been acting pastor for several years and is still doing good service as the minister in Westford.

The deacons have been, Elijah Whiton, Thomas Chapman, Amos Kendall, William Walker, Abner Chaffee, Nathan Barker, Benjamin Chapman, Allan Bosworth, Ebenezer Chaffee, Nathan Huntington, Chauncey Whiton, Charles W. Brett, now acting deacon, all who preceded him, it is thought, have entered the higher service above.

During the great revival which occurred about the year 1740, and the commotion of the Separatist or New Light factions, a part of the people of Ashford were inclined toward Baptist ideas. The severe agitation in the church of the standing order strengthened the volume of those holding Baptist sentiments. So rapidly did the Baptists increase in numbers that in the summer of 1743 they were organized as a distinct church. This was the first Baptist church formed in Windham county. Thomas Denison, of New London, a recent convert to Baptist principles, became its pastor. His ordination took place in November, 1743, the "laying on of hands" being by Elder Moulton, of Brimfield, who had himself been ordained by Elder John Callendar, of Newport, and other noted Baptist fathers. The church thus organized had but a brief existence. Mr. Denison soon declared himself mistaken, renounced his Baptist principles, fell into a rambling itineracy, and left his church disheartened and disorganized, to fall to pieces. After some years of weakness and struggles the members of this church were incorporated into the church of Brimfield.

Westford is the native place of men of eminence and usefulness in the country: Reverend Enoch Huntington, Reverend Roswell Whitmore, Reverend William Chaffee and Reverend Homer Sears, Baptists; Reverend Samuel Whiton, missionary in Africa, who wrote an excellent volume on the Dark Continent, and when his failing health admonished him that he must return to his native land, reluctantly closed his labors there, to resume them again as soon as renewed vigor permitted his return. When his health gave way the second time he bade farewell to the land of his adoption, and came back to the land of his birth. In improved but broken health he renewed his loved work at the West and the South, until the voice of providence clearly admonished him that his life upon earth must soon close.

Reverend Elijah Robbins, who has also for more than thirty years labored under the direction of the American Board in Western Africa with much faithfulness and success, an early

school-mate of Samuel Whiton, had his early home in Westford. Reverend Theron Brown, Baptist, also a school-mate of Whiton and Robbins, has a high standing in the ministry, in the circle of American poets and as an editor of the *Youth's Companion*. A small hill town parish, raising up ministers and missionaries like this, may well be commended. We may almost apply the words of the wise man: "Many daughters have done virtuously but thou excellest them all." It is not in raising up ministers alone that Westford is to be praised. Men of eminence have entered other walks of usefulness. Judge George Lincoln fills a high station in the legal profession in the state of New York. Ezra White, Esq., was a successful merchant in New York city, and his benefactions for the support of the gospel in his native place and in enlarging and enclosing the beautiful cemetery, where rest the mortal remains of his ancestors, is a worthy example for successful sons who leave our hill towns for the business centers of our republic. Doctor Melancthon Storrs, grandson of Reverend William Storrs, a surgeon in the army during the rebellion, and eminent among the physicians of Hartford and in the state, also his brother, William Storrs, Esq., for many years superintendent of the coal mines in Scranton, Pa., liberal in doing for his native place. Many others fill stations of usefulness as teachers, wives of eminent men, citizens, temperate, industrious, respected and useful.

The Baptist church in Westford was formed in 1780, through the instrumentality to a great degree of Mr. John Rathburn, who had removed from Stonington, and was ordained as its pastor, March 15th, 1781. A membership of fifty-four was reported in 1795. Elder Rathburn with his family friends possessed a goodly amount of property, contributed largely in preparing a place for public worship, and gave the land for the cemetery of the village, thus showing that it is not always to the advantage of a church to have the minister poor and dependent upon his people for his support. Under this ministry the church was quite united and prosperous. Among his successors were Elder Amos Babcock and Reverend Ezekiel Skinner, M. D., under whose labors the church grew strong and prosperous. He was a man of varied abilities, with an executive ability unusual. He was efficient in ministerial labors, giving lectures on subjects of much interest at the time, and having a medical practice which would have been considered sufficient for most men

in the profession. He lectured on the prophecies, on slavery and the live topics of the age. After he closed his labors with the church in Westford Reverends Dexter Monger, Washington Monger, Amos Snell and others for longer or shorter periods labored with this church.

This church has had a varied history. A large, wealthy, and influential portion of the community cherished what are called the *Christian* Baptist doctrines. They did not admit that Christ was in Divinity equal with the Father. They had a decidedly separate interest from the strict Baptists, and the latter could not candidly fellowship them. There was also a portion of the Baptists who did not hold restricted communion. These at length united with the Christians, and in 1862 they re-organized into a Free Will Baptist church. Reverend G. W. Cortis commenced his labors in 1862. He served them for about two years, and when he left in 1864, Reverend P. B. Hopkins commenced his labors with the church. He labored for about nine years, and was succeeded in 1873 by Reverend D. C. Wheeler, and in 1877 Reverend L. P. Bickford commenced his labors and continued until 1881. Two deacons served this Free Will Baptist church, Royal Chapman and Lemuel Willis.

At this period, the Strict Communion Baptists had come into the ascendancy and under the lead of the state missionary the church was reorganized as a regular Baptist church. In 1884 Reverend L. S. Brown was ordained as their minister, and he was followed by Rev. J. H. Bidwell, who was succeeded by Reverend A. J. Culver and he by Reverend Oscar Bissell. The present pastor is Reverend Samuel Thatcher, who ministers to this church and that in Warrenville. This church has two deacons, Nehemiah Clapp and Captain Jacob Walls. From this parish originated Reverend Amos Snell, Reverend Henry Coe, and also Reverend Frederick Coe, Andrew Richmond, a graduate of Yale College, a successful teacher, afterward in mercantile life in New York, and Charles Dean, a member of the glass company, and now president of the National Bank at Stafford Springs, also Hon. Edwin Busk of Willimantic. He still owns a saw and grist mill in Westford, doing a large business, principally at present in preparing car timber.

In the olden time the Richmond and Sons company did a profitable business in manufacturing what were called the Richmond Socks. They made an overshoe from cloth webbing

such as was used in trimming carriages, and before the India rubber came into use, they had an extensive sale, and the company became wealthy. Here the glass works were located. The Richmonds, Busk and Dean, did a large business and accumulated wealth in the manufactory. But this business has ceased, and the "Richmond village" is not doing the business for which it was formerly celebrated. The present meeting house in which the people of the village meet for worship was built in 1840.

John Warren, Esq., manifested much anxiety to have a Baptist church organized in the western part of Ashford, in a village on the turnpike from Hartford to Boston and Providence. The First, or as it was often called, the Knowlton meeting house, was not considered so central, nor easy of access as many thought desirable. But the people in the vicinity of the old church were greatly opposed to giving up worship in their sanctuary, and continued for a time to worship there after another congregation was formed in "Pompey Hollow," as the place was then called. Mr. Warren offered a fund to support worship in the Hollow, and the name of the village was changed to Warrenville. A church was organized January 22d, 1848, with eight members, viz., Nathaniel Sheffield and his wife Polly Sheffield, Celia A. Coates, Sophia Hammond, John Church, James Kent, Hiram Cady and his wife Miriam Cady. The ministers employed have been: Washington Monger, 1848; Percival Mathewson, 1850; J. B. Maryott, 1854; Tubal Wakefield, 1858; Elder Fulton, Lucien Burleigh, 1864; C. B. Rockwell, 1863; David Avery, 1871; E. P. Mathewson, 1878; J. J. Bronson, 1880; C. N. Nichols, 1881; L. S. Brown, 1886; N. Kingsbury, 1887; L. Thatcher, 1889, present pastor. The deacons have been, Hiram Cady, John Church, Jared Lanphear, and Stephen C. Robbins, serving at the present time. Present membership of the church, 86; non-resident 36. The meeting house was built in 1848. Permanent funds for the support of the minister were given by Nathaniel Sheffield \$1,000, John Warren \$300, Ebenezer James \$1,000.

In the olden time, the Collins brothers built a carpet factory here, and a good business was carried on, also there was a machine for carding wool, and a hat factory. There has also been a bone mill where fertilizers are prepared. Lombard and Mathewson have a grist mill and saw mill, in which a large lum-

bering business is done. Carriage spokes are here prepared in large quantities. Several stores and mechanic shops give a business-like air to this settlement.

The town of Ashford has furnished men eminent and useful in church and state. Doctor Samuel Nott, for more than half a century pastor in Franklin, and his brother Eliphalet, the distinguished president of Union College; Reverend Daniel Dow, D.D., who spent a long and useful life in Thompson, a corporate member of the American Board, a trustee and one of the founders of the Theological Institute at East Windsor Hill; also his brother, Reverend Hendric Dow, a scholar who bid fair to reach eminence, but died in early manhood; Reverend William Gaylord; Reverend Samuel Gaylord, a successful teacher most of his life; three Doctor Palmers of eminence, father, son and grandson, and Doctor John Simmons. But in the military records of the town Ashford holds a high place. Supplies were promptly sent to Boston when the port was closed by the British power. When the news came of the battle of Lexington, seventy-eight men under Captain Thomas Knowlton marched from the town for the scene of conflict. Only eight towns in the state furnished more men at that time than Ashford. Two months after the battle of Lexington one hundred men from this town were in the battle of Bunker Hill, under Captain Knowlton. Colonel Knowlton was one of the most brilliant of our revolutionary officers, highly valued by Washington, and prevented from rising to the highest military honors only by his early death in the battle of Harlem Heights. In the late civil war Ashford furnished her full quota of brave men. Deacon James G. Gaylord died a starved prisoner in Andersonville. It is said that when he felt the hand of death upon him, he requested a comrade, if he survived, to write to his family, sent tender messages, took a photograph of his wife from his bosom, looked upon it until his eyes grew dim in death, and his hand still grasped the picture, when death could not unclasp the loving grasp. Also Deacon John Brown, with others, did good service for the country.

The Babcock Library, of which the people of this town are justly proud, is the result of a generous bequest of one of the sons of Ashford, who had achieved success in other fields, but did not forget his native town. The following is a copy of that clause of the will of Archibald Babcock, a former resident of the

town of Ashford, but late deceased in the city of Charlestown, Mass., which clause of said will, with the bequest therein contained, laid the foundation of the Babcock Library:—

“I also give and bequeath to the inhabitants of the said town of Ashford, the further sum of THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS, to be held in trust forever, by said inhabitants, or by Trustees to be appointed or elected by said inhabitants, and the income thereof, only, to be applied and expended towards establishing and maintaining a Free Public Library in said town, for the use of the inhabitants of said town; and I direct that all the income for and during the first fifteen years, shall be annually expended in the purchase of books.” (11 Oct. 1862.)

The library was opened about 1866, in the Warrentown store. It had then about one hundred volumes. There was at first no librarian appointed for it, but about 1873 the town appointed Peter Platt librarian, at a salary of \$10 for the first year. He has filled that office ever since that date. The library now contains 2,200 volumes of history, biography, travel, science and fiction, both standard and current. In selecting books for the library, its patrons are requested to send in lists of what to them are desirable books, and from all such recommendations the committee make choice. Mr. Platt in 1885 built an addition to his house for a room to accommodate the library. The room thus prepared for it is 14 by 18 feet in size, and will accommodate five to six thousand volumes.

Archibald Babcock, a former resident of Ashford, went to Charlestown, Mass., and became a wealthy brewer. He left \$6,000, the annual income of which was to be expended in Ashford, one-half in the manner described, and the other half in promoting band music in the town. In case no band should be organized or maintained, the income was to be expended in hiring some band from outside the town to come in and play where the townspeople could hear it. Under the encouragement of this bequest, a band has been organized and is ably maintained.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

DANFORD KNOWLTON was born at Ashford, Windham county, Conn., May 5th, 1811. His father and mother were Daniel and Hannah Knowlton, both of the same name, and from families remotely connected. The records of the families are too imperfect to admit of genealogy with accuracy. On the paternal side



Danford Knowlton

they were farmers in comfortable circumstances, having influence in the community, and filling places of trust and responsibility. On the maternal side they were also farmers, the grandfather of the subject of the present sketch, Daniel Knowlton, and Thomas Knowlton, his brother, being conspicuous while quite young in the war against the French and Indians, serving with General Putnam, and in the early struggles for national independence, in which Colonel Thomas Knowlton fell at the battle of Harlem, and Daniel served through the war, being nearly two years a prisoner in the hands of the British. Colonel Knowlton was among the first to respond to the call for troops, and raised a company in Ashford, joining the colonial forces near Boston, where he became conspicuous in the fortification and defense of Bunker Hill. It was much to be regretted that one so highly esteemed should be lost to the country in its early struggle for national independence, and not unlike the loss it afterward sustained in the death of his grandnephew, General Nathaniel Lyon, of Ashford, who fell while leading a charge upon the confederate forces at Wilson's Creek, Mo., August 10th, 1861.

In the autumn of 1832 the subject of this biography left a happy paternal home with a desire to find some occupation more congenial to his taste than farming. On April 10th, 1833, he entered into an existing firm doing a wholesale grocery business in Hartford, Conn. Continuing the same class of business until December, 1843, he removed to New York, looking for a wider field of operations. With some changes of partners, the wholesale grocery business was continued until 1852, when he visited the island of Cuba and united the importation of its products with the existing enterprise. This mixed class of business was continued until 1861, when all but that of importation was abandoned, and the interest with partners ceased. Importations from the West Indies were continued, with the addition of commerce with South America until 1885, when it was brought to a close, thus completing fifty-two years of mercantile life with the varied success incident to such ventures, having met all obligations in full at maturity.

During the continuance of the importing business a good deal of controversy arose between importers and refiners of sugar respecting the proper duty to be placed upon various classes of sugar, the latter desiring so to discriminate against the better classes suitable for consumption as to prevent their importation.

These controversies led to various appeals to congress, in which the importers generally found the champagne and good dinners of the refiners more effective than the solid arguments and cold water of the importers. Thus that "infant industry" was so protected as to lead to colossal fortunes among the refiners of sugar, at the expense of the consumers, resulting in the exclusion from the country of all sugars except such as are required for refining. In those controversies Mr. Knowlton took a prominent part, appearing before committees of congress and contributing many articles on the subject to the press, and otherwise reaching the attention of the members of congress.

In his matrimonial experience Mr. Knowlton was one of the most fortunate of men. Married to Miss Miranda H. Rockwell, the daughter of Park and Esther Rockwell of Stafford, Conn., September 26th, 1837, he passed almost forty-nine years of a most happy union with one whose amiable character rendered her beloved by all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance. Four children were born to them: Maria R., D. Henry, Miner R. and Gertrude M., the former dying at an early age. Previous to retirement from business, Mr. Knowlton built a fine country residence in Stafford, at the birthplace of his wife, with a view of spending at least his summers in that delightful locality.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

THE TOWN OF EASTFORD.

Location and Description.—Organized as an Ecclesiastical Society.—Cotton Mills.—Search for Gold.—Latham Twine Mill.—Smith Snow.—Crystal Lake.—Factories of Eastford Village.—Cotton and Woolen, Wagon Wheels, Leather, Boots and Shoes, Axes and Hatchets, Carriages, Scythes, Plow Handles and Beams, Bobbins.—Town Incorporation.—Communication.—Honored Sons.—Congregational Church.—The Society of North Ashford.—The Methodist Church.—Ministers and Teachers.—The “Church of Bacchus.”—Creamery.—Biographical Sketch.

THE town of Eastford, lying in the northwest part of Windham county, is about nine miles in length from north to south, and has an average width of about three miles. Its area would thus approximate twenty-seven square miles. It is a well watered town, the Natchaug river running through the length of it, and receiving within its bounds several tributaries, the largest of which are Bigelow river from the west and Bungee brook from the east. It has no railroad track within its borders. Farming and manufacturing are the chief occupations of the people. The town was formerly included in the territory of Ashford, which joins it on the west. Other boundaries of the town are Union on the north, Woodstock on the north and east, making an offset of about three miles square upon the northeast corner, Pomfret on the east and Hampton and Chaplin on the south. The population in 1870 was 984, and in 1880, 885.

In March, 1764, the inhabitants of the town of Ashford voted to divide the town into three ecclesiastical societies, as nearly of equal size as possible, for the better accommodation of the people in their religious privileges. When religious worship was maintained in the Eastford and Westford societies, they were to be relieved from the tax in support of the minister in the center. A bill passed the general assembly to this effect. Eastford did not use this privilege until October, 1777, when arrangements were made to have a settled ministry and a church in said society. In almost every interest, except holding town meetings, all

proceeded much as though it was a separate town. In sharing town offices and sending representatives to the general assembly it was expected that Eastford would have her due proportion. The management of the schools, the appointment of school visitors and most of the local interests were under her supervision as much as desired. Ephraim Lyon, David Bolles, Stephen Keyes, John Paine, Anthony Stoddard, Captain John Stevens and many other prominent inhabitants of Eastford were among the early settlers in the town of Ashford.

While most of the inhabitants of Eastford have from its earliest history been engaged in agriculture, they have also been quite largely employed in manufacturing. While it is a hilly town it has running through its central portion streams furnishing excellent water privileges. The Bigelow river forms a junction with the Natchaug near Phoenixville. This comes from the northwest, furnishing an excellent water privilege for the Snow mills. In the olden time a carding mill and clothiers' works were here located, and Eliezer Snow did a thriving business, when the good house-wife spun and wove the cloth for the male portion of the family and sent it when finished to be dressed at Snow's clothing works. A grist mill still does business at this place.

In Phoenixville, in the south part of Eastford, there was a carding machine at an earlier date than that of Snow's, located where the Stone Factory now stands. When the Phoenixville Manufacturing Company was organized a stone cotton mill was built in 1831, consisting of three floors above the basement, 35 by 70 feet in size. The Phoenix Company also purchased the cotton mill which had been built by George and Rufus Sprague about 1812. This building was three floors above the basement, 36 by 50 feet. The original Phoenix Company consisted of Samuel Moseley, Smith Snow, Josiah Savage, James H. Preston, John Brown and Seth H. Tuthill. Both mills were well furnished with the best of machinery, and furnished employment for a large number of operatives. For many years a large amount of business was done by this company. In time the mills passed into the hands of Mr. Clifford Thomas, who carried on manufacturing with much energy and success. When he left the mills the business began to decline, the stone mill became a twine mill for a time, passed with the other property into the hands of the late Joseph B. Latham, and is now in the hands

of his sons. But little business is now transacted by what was once the celebrated Phoenix Manufacturing Company.

At a little distance below the Phoenix Company's mills was the Burnham silk mill. This did a considerable business for a time, having an excellent water privilege. This property passed into the hands of Mr. Alfred Potter, who used the buildings for a saw mill, grist mill, blacksmith shop and an iron foundry. Stoves and plow castings were here made, and a good business carried on. Since the death of Mr. Potter little business has been done by this establishment.

Near the Potter mill, lived a Mr. Swinington, who was so confident that a rich mine of gold and silver was located there, that he built a dam, to turn the water through the gulch in which he supposed the precious treasure was deposited, expecting to wash out immense treasures, but all his expectations failed and he felt that his labor was lost.

In 1880 M. F. and J. E. Latham built a twine mill a little north of the Phoenix cotton mills, 30 by 50 feet, two floors above the basement, where they had ten feet of water on a 40 inch Leffel wheel. This mill is now doing successful work. All the dams of the several mills in Phoenixville are in good condition and ought to be in full use. Latham's saw mill, grist mill, and shingle mill, are doing a large and successful business, and use the water privilege of the upper Phoenix mill to good advantage. The stone dam here bids fair to stand for ages, from its excellent construction.

Smith Snow was a son of Bilarky Snow, who owned a large tract of land in Eastford. Smith Snow married Sally Hyde. He was a decided business man, and gave but little time to the social conventionalities of life. The story is handed down of him that when he wedded his wife he returned from the wedding, which is supposed to have taken place at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. William Sherman, in the western part of Pomfret, changed his clothes and went to work in his mill, completing his day's work. Having done so he returned home at evening and found his house filled with guests met to properly celebrate the occasion. But he was not be thrown out of his usual habit even by such an innovation. When his usual bed-time came, which was early in the night, he disrobed in the kitchen and tucked himself away in the bed, telling his new wife that she could come when she got ready and take the back side, as he should take the front side of the bed himself.

The Phoenix Manufacturing Company, which succeeded Mr. Snow in the ownership of this mill, sold the Snow saw mill to Joseph B. Latham, who removed hither from Johnstown, R. I., when he was twenty-one years of age. He married Percy Bullard, a daughter of Zuinglius Bullard. Mr. Latham was a prominent man in Eastford, and represented the town in the legislature two or three times. He died April 21st, 1872, being seventy years of age. The mill is now owned by his son M. F. Latham, and it is occupied in grist grinding and sawing.

In the center of Eastford, there are also excellent water privileges. The Crystal lake, in the north part of the town, about half its contents in Woodstock, the rest in Eastford, is not only a beautiful place for excursions from the surrounding country, a favorite resort for fishermen, but its waters have been raised by a dam at its outlet, so that it is an excellent reservoir for all the mills on the stream below it. Early in its history, Eastford village had clothing works, doing a good business. These were burnt in 1837, and soon after, within the same year, Captain Jonathan Skinner built the cotton factory still standing. It was 36 by 60 feet on the ground, two floors above the basement, and employed some twenty hands. Cassimeres and jeans were manufactured. After the death of Captain Skinner, this mill passed into the hands of M. and James Keith, and has been used as a cotton mill, in the manufacture of woolen yarn, making of wooden wares and as a grist mill. It is now owned by James M. Keith and is used in the manufacture of woolen yarn and as a grist mill. Five or six hands are kept employed. Its business is said to be successful. A few rods north of this mill stood the Red Woolen mill. There Mr. Mumford, early in the history of the village, built and ran the mill, doing a good business in the manufacture of woolen cloths. Afterward it passed into the hands of Mr. Ormsby, who continued the business for many years, when the Arnold Brothers came into possession, built a large addition, and engaged in the making of cart and wagon wheels, and other wooden manufacturing, and the carriage manufacturing business. They did an extensive business for many years, but since they gave up the business but little has been done with the mills. The firm of Skinner & Hewett built a substantial stone cotton mill a short distance above the Mumford mill, 35 by 80 feet, two stories above the basement, employing some twenty operatives, and doing a good business. This mill was burnt in 1850 and has not been rebuilt.

A large tannery has also been in operation in the village for more than half a century. Mr. Dodge did business here for several years, when the stand passed into the hands of Deacon Joseph Barrows. He enlarged the establishment, increased the amount of business, and for more than forty years has done a large business. A few years since he took his son, Clark Barrows, into the firm, a steam engine of twenty-five horse power was procured for use in the building, and the leather of the Barrows Company stood high in the market, and still commands the best of prices. A large boot and shoe manufactory, employing a large number of hands, either in the establishment or in shoe binding at their homes, did for many years a thriving business. Mr. Hiram Burnham was at the head of this establishment. Near the close of his life the manufactory was burned, containing a large store of shoes and other goods, and the business was never resumed except in a small way, and at Mr. Burnham's death the business ceased.

For about half a century the carriage and blacksmith shop of William E. Cheney did a good business. In the last years of his life he added an undertaker's office, and kept an assortment of coffins, with a hearse, much for the convenience of the community. At his death in 1884, the establishment ceased to do business.

Usually one or two stores and a post office have existed in Phoenixville, some three or four stores and a post office in Eastford Center, and a store and post office in the section still called North Ashford. Several blacksmith shops have usually done business, and one in the Center was used for several years as an axe and hatchet factory. Captain Jairus Chapman did quite a thriving business in this factory, a fine trip-hammer being run by water power. In the olden time there was an axe factory in the northwest part of Eastford, and that section of the town still bears the name of the Axe Factory. Captain Jairus Chapman had carried on the same business before he sold his shop and removed to Eastford Center. His business was located in the west part of the town, where he manufactured scythes, broad axes, axes and hatchets. This business proved quite profitable, and the goods manufactured had a high reputation in the market. This shop was sold to Hon. Edwin A. Buck, now of Willimantic, and Hon. John Dean, who used the water privilege in preparing plow beams, plow handles, etc. Large quantities of

oak timber, growing extensively in the vicinity, thus brought good profit to the farmers of the neighborhood. This business closed when the timber was used up. Mr. L. M. Whitney is now running a bobbin factory in Eastford Center, making about 1,000 bobbins a day, which are sold to the manufactories in the region. A ten horse power steam engine is used in this factory.

The town of Eastford was incorporated in May, 1847, being taken from Ashford; population, 855; principal industry, agriculture. It is reached by stage from North Windham on the New York & New England railroad, from Putnam on the same road, and the Norwich & Worcester division of the same, daily. A Masonic lodge was established early in the present century, meeting for many years in a room in the mansion of the late Benjamin Bosworth, Esq. It is now united with the lodge in Putnam, where the meetings are now held. A grange of some sixty members, called the Crystal Lake Grange, has been established here. Ashford and a part of Woodstock unite with Eastford in sustaining this organization. A temperance society exists and holds regular meetings in the place. Distinguished men have been born in Eastford. Judge Andrew Judson, member of congress and district judge of the U. S. court; Hon. Elisha Carpenter, judge of the supreme court of errors in Connecticut; Hon. Jairus Carpenter, judge in Madison, Wis., lecturer on law and dean for the faculty in the State University of Wisconsin; Hon. Alvan Preston, for many years a partner and manager of the glass works in Ellenville, N. Y., and many others. General Nathaniel Lyon, who fell in the battle at Springfield, Mo., is buried in Eastford, by the side of his parents. His burial was attended with military honors, and was the largest assembly probably ever gathered in Windham county. Governor Buckingham, of Connecticut, and Governor Sprague, of Rhode Island, with other distinguished men in military and civil office, were present to honor the memory of one who probably saved the state of Missouri from joining the secessionists in the late rebellion. The mother of General Lyon was a niece of Colonel Knowlton, who took an active part in the battle of Bunker Hill, and who is reputed to be the prominent figure in the picture of that battle. It was his plan in the novel breastwork—two rows of rail fence parallel to each other, with the packing of fresh mown hay between—which probably made that battle an essential vic-

tory to the Americans. Lieutenant Daniel Knowlton, an elder brother of this Colonel Knowlton, was General Lyon's grandfather. The father of General Lyon was a mathematician, his mother had the energy of the Knowltons. An amusing anecdote is related of her. When a girl, she attended an evening party with her affianced lover. When the hostler of the tavern brought the sleigh to the door, the young man who waited upon her had become too much intoxicated to lift his foot over the side of the sleigh, and she saw her mates *giggling* at the position she was in. Quick as thought, she sprang into the sleigh, seized his collar with both hands, drew him into the sleigh, set him down with a firm hand, took the reins from the hostler's hands, and drove rapidly homeward. He became more and more helpless, but she drove directly to his father's house, opened the door, pulled him into the entry, aroused the family, said the young man had a fit or something, jumped into the sleigh, drove to her father's house, and sent her brother back with the horse and sleigh. When he came back with promises to reform, she wisely considered the prospect too forbidding, and waited for a better offer.

Franklin Sibley is a successful physician in one of our Western states, and two of his brothers were in good practice, but died in early life. Andrew J. Bowen is a lawyer in good practice in Willimantic, one of his brothers is a physician in the West, and Stephen Bowen, another brother, has been sheriff of the county, and is a large dealer in horses, bringing hither several car loads of western horses every year. Preston B. Sibley has filled the office of sheriff for several years, and is now quite a popular and successful keeper of the county jail in Brooklyn. Godfrey Works for several years was a manufacturer and a successful business man after his removal to Providence, R. I. Benjamin Bosworth was a large landholder, a merchant and a liberal contributor to objects of benevolence and charity. Benjamin Green, a successful manufacturer in the state of Maine, who paid half the price of the pipe organ in the Congregational church in Eastford, was also a native of the town.

The selectmen of the town are Munroe Latham, Charles Warren and George Lyon; Doctor Elisha Robbins is judge of probate, and Frank Bowen, collector.

Reverend Solomon Spaulding was born in Eastford, educated at Dartmouth College, preached in western New York, and

when out of health, for diversion, wrote a legendary story of the Indians, which is supposed to have furnished the basis of the Book of Mormon. His brother Josiah, who was with him when he wrote the legendary tale, and heard him read his manuscript, said they were so similar, that when he read the Mormon Bible, he usually knew what was to come before he read the pages. Rigdon, an elder, afterward high in office, borrowed the manuscript of the widow under the alleged purpose of using it to refute Mormonism, but would never return it to the owner.

Captain Joseph B. Latham should be named among the prominent business men of wealth in Eastford, also his son Eugene, a master machinist, recently killed instantly in Windsor Locks by being caught in the machinery in a mill. A few years since the firm of Smith, Winchester & Co., commissioned him to go to Egypt to put up machines in that distant country. Master John Griggs was a famous school teacher. When 75 years of age, he was still pursuing his favorite vocation. He taught over fifty terms in his own and neighboring towns, and is said to have had altogether more than three thousand pupils under his care. He wrote excellent poetry, as did his son Lucian, born in Eastford, remarkable for his memory. It is said that when he attempted it, he could repeat a lengthy speech or sermon nearly word for word, or a poem after once carefully reading it. An amusing anecdote is told of him in his days of early manhood. A schoolmate of his received proposals from a young gentleman, wishing to cultivate an acquaintance with matrimonial views. With a blushing hesitancy and apology, she said to Lucian, after stating the proposal, "You are well acquainted with him and I am not, what is it best for me to do? If he is an estimable man, I might like a further acquaintance." Lucian paused for a little, and then said, "He and I have always been good friends and I do not wish to say anything to his injury. I will give you a couplet in poetry, and you can draw your own inference. Trust not in any man, trust not in any brother; so girls, if you must love, love one another." She understood his advice and followed it. Lucian Griggs bid fair to become an eminent lawyer, practiced for a few years in Indiana, where he died, greatly lamented by his friends and the community.

The Congregational church in Eastford was organized September 23d, 1778; present at the organization, Reverends Stephen Williams, John Storrs and Elisha Hutchinson. The original

members were: Andrew Judson, Benjamin Sumner and wife, Jonathan Chapman and wife, Samuel Snow, Elisha Wales, Simeon Dean and wife. In May it was voted to hire Mr. Andrew Judson of Stratford, with the view of a settlement as pastor. At the same time it was voted to build a meeting house. In June it was voted that the county court committee set the stake on Lieutenant John Russel's land. A subscription was started, the society agreeing "that those that subscribe towards building a meeting house have liberty to build it of equal bigness with Woodstock's West Society meeting house," *i. e.*, 45 by 35 feet. The council met December 1st, 1778, to examine the candidate and arrange for his ordination and installation. December 2d Mr. Judson was set over the church as pastor. His salary was 70 pounds a year, and 500 pounds for settlement. Mr. Judson died in office, November 15th, 1804. During the last years of his life he was feeble in health, greatly depressed in spirits, and unable to preach, but his son John and others supplied his pulpit. In addition to the nine original members, ninety-nine were added to the church. Mr. Judson's ministry continued twenty-six years. Reverend Hollis Samson, having ministered before in his connection with the Methodist denomination, affirmed that he was now, and really always had been of the doctrinal belief of the Congregational church, preached much to the acceptance of the people, and in a church meeting called for the purpose, solemnly affirmed that he was in harmony with the church in faith and church polity, received a unanimous call to settle with them as their pastor. He was ordained by a council which met December 5th and 6th, 1809.

Mr. Samson remained pastor a little over six years, when he was reported as intemperate, and as having embraced the doctrine of the Universalists. He was dismissed without recommendation, May 27th, 1816. But few united with the church under his ministry, and the church did not prosper. At one time only about twenty members, and only six of these males, were found on the records. Reverend Asahel Nettleton, the noted evangelist, labored with this church with great success. The reviving was almost like a resurrection from the dead. Large numbers were gathered into the church. Sixty-three united with the church from the time of Mr. Samson's dismissal to the installation of his successor, which took place May 31st, 1820, the new pastor being Reverend Reuben Torrey. His

salary was to be four hundred and fifty dollars, and twenty cords of wood annually, to be delivered at his door. Mr. Torrey continued pastor twenty years. He was dismissed April 28th, 1840. One hundred and twenty-eight members united with the church under his pastorate.

Reverend Francis Williams was ordained and installed September 22d, 1841. He remained ten years, and was dismissed November 12th, 1851. Seventy-two persons united with the church during his pastorate. Reverend Charles Chamberlain was installed April 14th, 1858. Fourteen had united with the church since the dismissal of Mr. Williams. The following churches were invited to appear by pastor and delegate at the council: Ashford, Chaplin, Hampton, Willimantic, Windham, West Killingly, Abington, West Woodstock, North Woodstock, East Woodstock. This pastorate continued nine years and sixty-eight members were added to the church during this time. He was dismissed March 14th, 1867. Reverend Clinton M. Jones was installed May 8th, 1872. A very interesting centennial of this church was observed September 23d, 1878. A historical discourse by the pastor, reminiscences by Reverend F. Williams, Moses Torrey, Esq., son of a former pastor and others, and letters from those who could not be present, made this an occasion long to be remembered. This pastorate continued sixteen years. Sixty-five persons united with the church during this ministry. Reverend C. M. Jones was dismissed June 22d, 1888. The church is at present without a pastor. Five hundred and forty-five have united with the church from its organization. Benjamin Sumner was chosen deacon February 21st, 1779; Jonathan Chapman, February 28th, 1781; Noah Paine, January 1st, 1790; Samuel Sumner, August 15th, 1799; Elijah Deans, May 23d, 1817; Elisha Trowbridge, May 23d, 1817; Dyer Carpenter, August 31st, 1820; Allen Bosworth, July 1825; Earl C. Preston and Henry Work, September 21st, 1834; Harvey Lummis, December 31st, 1842; Joseph D. Barrows, April 26th, 1844; George S. Deans, March 20th, 1873. In all thirteen deacons have served this church, only three of which are now living—Deacons Preston, Barrows and Deans; and only two pastors—Reverend Francis Williams and C. M. Jones. The present membership of the church is eighty-three.

The present meeting house was erected in 1829. It was dedicated December 23d of the same year. Esquire Bosworth pur-

chased the old meeting house, removed it from the common and made it into a dwelling house. The day for the removal was fixed, men were invited with their teams, and all was ready for the start, when a delegation came to Esquire Bosworth, saying the oxen would not draw unless the teamsters were treated. Esquire Bosworth had recently identified himself with the temperance cause, and the "rummies" hoped to bring him to terms, but they mistook their man. The words of his pastor at his funeral, "He was one of the firmest oaks that ever grew upon Mt. Zion," were well spoken. Instantly the reply came, "It will rot down where it is, first." Enough teams were unhitched to prevent the moving that day, but immediately an offer came from neighboring towns to furnish teams that would draw though the teamsters were *not* treated. Esquire Bosworth left a legacy of a thousand dollars, the interest to be applied to help support a *settled* orthodox minister, and for the support of no other.

A series of conference meetings held in North Ashford resulted in the formation of a society and a vote to build a meeting house in 1793. It was voted that the house be forty feet long and thirty feet wide, with a porch to furnish a better way to go into the gallery. Timothy Allen gave two acres of land on which to build the church and parsonage. The church was organized November 5th, 1794, recognized as in fellowship by a council. Original members were: Ephraim Hayward, Ebenezer Curtis, Jonathan Carpenter, Jesse Bugbee, Marcus Bugbee, Ezra Hayward, John Hayward and Abigail Hayward. The present membership is seventy-five.

A new meeting house was built in 1843. It was 48 feet long, with a projection of 5 feet for entrance, and 36 feet wide. Elder Bennet, then their minister, preached the dedication sermon. The pastors have been: Daniel Bolton, 1796; Ledoit Noah, 1811; Buckley Waters, 1814; Stephen Haskel, 1819; Leonard Gage, 1829; Alvan Bennet, Alfred Trum, 1842; Rensselaer Putney, 1844; George Mixter, 1846; Tubal Wakefield, 1852; Gilman Stow, 1858; Erastus Andrews, 1865; C. B. Rockwell, 1873; Percival Mathewson, 1878; A. A. Robinson, 1885; Asa Randlett, 1887; sixteen pastors in all. The deacons have been: Ephraim Howard, Joseph Burley, Benjamin Corbin, Jairus Chapman, John Burley, Oliver M. Angel and Frederick Davidson.

Several Baptist ministers have been natives of Eastford. Elder Bolles had three sons who rose to eminence, Matthew, Augustus and Lucius; also Charles, son of Judge David Bolles, and Isaiah C. Carpenter.

The Methodists had a circuit established in Eastford in 1826. Several years before that they built a small church in the western part of the town, and among other preachers the eccentric Lorenzo Dow sometimes preached in this house. In 1831 a new meeting house was built in the Center, jointly by the Methodists and the Universalists, each having the right to occupy it half the time. In 1847 the Methodists built a meeting house for their own use, procured a fine pipe organ, built a room for town purposes in the basement, also a vestry for their evening worship. Captain Skinner, Mr. Mumford, Mr. Keith, Willard Lyon, Mr. Hewett, Mr. Hiram Burnham, Captain Leonard Dean and other men of wealth and influence, caused this church to be quite flourishing, but when they passed away it began to decline, and now for much of the time no service is maintained, and no preacher is sent by the conference. This church has raised up ministers who have filled stations of usefulness. Among these Isaac Sherman, John Sherman and Orson Dodge may be mentioned.

The Congregational church has also furnished ministers who have done good service in the cause of their Master. Chester Carpenter, son of Deacon Carpenter, graduated at Amherst College and at the Theological Institute at East Windsor Hill. He was ordained at Sinclairville, N. Y., September 25th, 1845, but was attacked with hemorrhage of the lungs, and went South, started for home and died on the way, April 17th, 1867. Reverend John P. Trowbridge, now of Bethlehem, Conn., who has been and still is a pastor of eminence and success, as also a native of this town, may be mentioned.

Select schools have from time to time been in successful operation. Some of the teachers have been: Hon. Samuel Jones, a distinguished criminal lawyer now of Hartford; Hon. Edwin Jones, of Chaplin, now a millionaire of Minneapolis, and Reverend John R. Freeman. In her eight school districts Eastford has had eminent and successful teachers; men like Master John Griggs, Calvin Whitney, Esq., the two judges, Elisha and Jairus Carpenter, and ladies of marked ability and success. Such teachers in our common schools do a work that tells for good

upon the rising generation. An amusing incident occurred in the history of one of the solid citizens of Eastford in his early boyhood. For some misbehavior his teacher made him creep under the teacher's table standing in the middle of the room, with the remark, "If you act like a dog be a dog in your place under the table." Soon the minister came in to visit the school, when "Bow-wow! bow-wow!" was the instant greeting he received from under the table. Explanations were given, a hearty laugh indulged, and the scholar had permission to take his seat. Hon. Charles D. Hine, secretary of the state board of education, has a summer residence in Eastford, and the schools receive the benefit of his influence.

A very eccentric man in Eastford, many years since, furnished an item for the page of history, which perhaps fails of finding a parallel in all our modern records. Mr. Ephraim Lyon instituted, as he called it, a church of Bacchus, the membership to be of those who indulged in the use of intoxicating liquors to excess. He did not invite members to enroll their names, nor did he ask their consent to have their names recorded. He took the business into his own hands, kept his church records himself, and claimed to be very conscientious in his work. He named himself as the high priest, saying he must become badly intoxicated several times each year in order that he might hold the office. He appointed his deacons from those he called the most "*zealous members*." He lived in the southeastern part of Eastford, removing to Westford toward the close of his life, but keeping up the organization while he lived. His members resided in Eastford, Ashford, Chaplin, Hampton, Pomfret and perhaps some other towns in the near vicinity. The membership sometimes reached the number of one thousand or more. All must be what are commonly called drunkards. Most were men, but he had a few women in his church, some of them "*zealous members*." If any became members of temperance societies or reformed they were promptly excommunicated, and their names stricken from the roll of membership, but if they relapsed into their old habits their names were re-enrolled. It was his boast that few failed to come back who had been cut off. So great was the dread of being enrolled on his books that his life was threatened by some drinking men in case he put their names on his book, and he sometimes had to run for his life, but with the spirit of a martyr he was true to his official work; noth-

ing moved him from his purpose. His wife became so alarmed at their threatenings, lest they should wreak their vengeance upon him, that she burned his book of church records, but he soon replaced it, and hid it carefully for its future safety. He read it in companies where he felt safe in so doing, so that none could be enrolled without it soon being known to the reluctant members and others that they were members of the church of Bacchus, to be put in official positions when they became sufficiently "*zealous*." The eyes of some were opened to see how they were regarded, and reformation followed, and it was thought it exerted a salutary check upon some young men who feared they might be enrolled as members. Members who died in full membership were said to go to the Bacchanalian revels of their patron god.

The Eastford Creamery is a co-operative concern with a capital of \$2,000, organized as a joint stock company. The directors are: J. M. Herendeen, D. M. Bent, H. K. Safford, M. F. Latham, C. O. Warren, E. W. Warren and S. O. Bowen. C. O. Warren was chosen secretary, and also acts as superintendent. The company was presented with a piece of land (by S. O. Bowen) on the highway leading from Eastford village to Phoenixville, with the privilege of digging a well, and conveying water from a favorable point above the site of the building, which gives a good fall and great abundance of water.

The benefits of a creamery were first agitated in the Grange, which interested many of the leading citizens of this community and some of the farmers of Woodstock, which culminated in the agreement to establish a creamery. The building committee was J. E. Latham, J. M. Herendeen and Henry Trowbridge, who commenced work soon after the ground opened in the spring.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

STEPHEN OLIVER BOWEN.—Stephen and Rebecca Bowen were the grandparents of the subject of this biography. His parents were Oliver and Betsey Bowen, the former having removed to Eastford in 1822, where he resided until his death, in 1879. He was during his active life a successful farmer and produce dealer. His wife survived him and is still a resident of Eastford. Their son, Stephen O. Bowen, was born in Eastford, April 8th, 1840. He received an elementary education, and afterward spent a



J. Q. Bowen

season at the State Normal school, pursuing his studies with a view to proficiency as a teacher. The succeeding ten or more winters were devoted to teaching, the summer months being given to farming and dealing in live stock. Though most of his life a successful farmer, he was for some time engaged in trade, and has been for several years an extensive dealer in and shipper of horses. By honest dealing and strict integrity he has established an enviable reputation in this department of traffic, and won a large and increasing patronage.

Mr. Bowen has been active in all the public measures affecting his town, and one of its prominent political factors. Reared in the Jeffersonian school of democracy, he has ever been a steadfast exponent of its principles. He was a delegate to the national democratic convention, held at St. Louis in 1888, and for several years the popular candidate of the party for representative in the state legislature, against a heavy majority. To this office he was elected in 1876, during which session he served on the school fund committee. He has filled nearly all the local positions in the gift of his townspeople, and is at present justice of the peace, town treasurer and school visitor. For more than twenty-five years he has been a member of the school board, several times selectman, and repeatedly elected to the office of judge of probate, when he adjudicated upon a number of important estates. His efficiency and wide experience in these matters have caused his services to be in demand as administrator and trustee. Mr. Bowen was for several years a director of the Eastford Savings Bank, and is now president of the Eastford Creamery, of the Eastford Temperance Association, and of the Eastford Library Association. He is much interested in the "Grange" as a promoter of successful agriculture, and was for two years master of the Crystal Lake Grange, as also overseer of the Pomona Grange of Windham county. Mr. Bowen is a member and an officer of the Congregational church of Eastford, and one of its principal supporters. He was married April 8th, 1864, to Miss Abbie Lee Spencer of Pomfret. They have had seven children, of whom two sons and two daughters are living.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

WINDHAM.

Ansel Arnold, youngest son of Samuel and Amity (Pomeroy) Arnold, was born in Somers, Conn., August 8th, 1815. At the age of 21 he commenced the manufacture of shaker hoods at Mansfield Centre, which he continued till 1841, when he removed to Somerville, and was engaged in that enterprise in connection with keeping a general store till 1851. He then disposed of his manufactory, and continued to run the store till 1870, when he came to Willimantic and engaged in the flour and feed business, under the firm name of A. Arnold & Co. He is president of the W. G. & A. R. Morrison Co., president of the Board of Trade, vice-president of the First National Bank, and director of the Dime Savings Bank. He married for his second wife, Maria, daughter of Horace Chapman, and has two children—Willie and Louie. He represented the town of Somers in the legislature in 1857, and the town of Windham in 1876.

The Backus Family.—The common ancestor of the Norwich and Windham families of this name was William Backus of Saybrook, who removed to Norwich in 1660. His children were William and Stephen. The former, who was known as Lieutenant William, was one of the original proprietors of Windham. He married Elizabeth Pratt, and had the following family: William, John, Sarah (who married Edward Culver), Samuel, Joseph and Nathaniel. William, the eldest son of Lieutenant William, was born in 1660, and settled in Windham as early as 1693, for his name is found in the first list of (22) inhabitants, made in that year. Previous to this his father gave him one of his thousand acre rights, which was located at Windham Centre. He married Mary Dunton, August 31st, 1692, and died January 25th, 1742. He had the following family: Samuel, Abigail (died in infancy), Mary, Daniel, Hannah, Peter, William, Stephen and Ephraim. Samuel (son of William) was born July 5th, 1693,

and married December 2d, 1719. His children were: Mary, died aged 17 years; Lemuel, shot by the Indians; Andonijah, Nathaniel, Abigail, married Samuel Huntingdon of Mansfield, and Ann. Nathaniel (son of Samuel) was married to Elizabeth Hebard, daughter of Robert Hebard, October 7th, 1753, and his children were: Elijah (who emigrated to Vermont), Huldah, Calvin, Luther and perhaps others. Nathaniel died December 14th, 1815. Luther (son of Nathaniel) was born about 1772, and had three wives and twenty children, probably the largest family ever raised in Windham. Of this family Harry was the oldest, and married Susan D., daughter of Dan Sawyer, January 3d, 1819. Their children were: Julia Ann, Albert Henry, John C., Avery, Huldah Main, Eliza Elizabeth, Luther F., Mary M., Chester H. and George Abbe. Luther F. (son of Harry), born March 5th, 1828, married Ann Canniff. They had five children: William Christopher, born June 15th, 1854, married Hattie, daughter of S. O. Hatch, and is a member of the firm of Backus Bros.; Luther Edwin, born January 29th, 1856, married Annie Shay, and has two children—Helen C. and Florence, and resides in South Windham; George Harlow, married Lizzie A. Lamb, and is a member of the firm of Backus Bros.; James Henry, died in infancy, and Charles Henry, born January 2d, 1865. Luther F. died August 7th, 1883.

Reverend Nicholas Baker, born about 1611, was in Hingham, Mass., in 1635, and became a freeman in 1636. He was representative in 1636 and 1638, and removed to Scituate, where in 1660 he was ordained, and was third minister of the First church of that town. He reconciled the two churches of that town, which had quarreled for thirty years. He was a graduate of St. John's College, Cambridge, England, and received the degrees A. B. in 1631-32 and A. M. in 1635. He first located at Roxbury. He died August 23d, 1678, and his will names the following children: Samuel, Nicholas, Elizabeth (married John Vinal), Sarah (married Josiah Litchfield), Deborah (married Israel Chittenden) and Mary (married Stephen Vinal). Samuel, son of Nicholas, resided in Hull and Barnstable, and married a daughter of Isaac Robinson. Of this family we have no record, but he is without doubt the father of the Windham settler, Deacon John Baker, who was born at Martha's Vineyard in October, 1672, and married October 4th, 1693, Anna, daughter of Samuel Annable, of Barnstable. He came to Windham county with his two sons,

Samuel and John, before 1746, and located in what is now Scotland. He died January 27th, 1763, aged 90. His children were: Hannah, Mercy (married Benjamin Lathrop), John (died in infancy), Rebecca, Samuel, Mary (married Lemuel Hodge, of Yarmouth), Mehitable (married Ebenezer Crosby, of Yarmouth), Abigail (married Ichabod Lathrop, of Tolland), John and Hannah. Deacon Samuel, son of Deacon John, was born in Barnstable, Mass., September 7th, 1706, and came to Windham county with his father. He was a member of the Scotland church, and was chosen deacon April 10th, 1777. He married Prudence Jenkins, of Barnstable, May 30th, 1732. Of his family the following were born in Barnstable: Martha (married Nathaniel Bingham, of Windham), Anna (died in infancy), Bethia, Samuel, and Mercy, died aged about 23 years. The following children were born in Windham: Anna (died unmarried aged over 70), Joseph, Benjamin and Prudence (married Abner Webb). Deacon Samuel died December 9th, 1791. Joseph, son of Deacon Samuel, was born December 17th, 1748, was a physician and settled in Brooklyn, where he practiced till his death, May 16th, 1804. He married Lucy, daughter of Reverend Ebenezer Devotion, of Scotland. Their children were: Elizabeth, married P. P. Tyler, of Brooklyn, Conn.; Deborah, married Thaddeus Clark, of Lebanon (Their daughter, Sarah Jane, is the well known writer, Grace Greenwood. She married Leander K. Lippincott, and resides in New York city); Ebenezer, succeeded his father as physician in Brooklyn, where he died; Martha, married Solomon W. Williams, of Lebanon, Conn.; James, a lieutenant in the United States army, died at Savannah, Ga.; Rufus Lathrop; Lucy Maria, married the late Reverend Willard Preston, of Savannah, Ga.; Mary, married Jonathan A. Welch, of Brooklyn, Conn.; and Joseph, twin of Mary, died in infancy. Rufus Lathrop, son of Doctor Joseph, was born December 6th, 1790, was appointed ensign in the United States army in 1812, lieutenant in 1813, captain in 1817, major in 1832, lieutenant colonel in 1852, resigned in January, 1855, and died in Windham June 5th, 1868. He married Eliza, daughter of Charles Taintor, of Windham, and his children were: Charles Taintor, and William Rufus, born at Alleghany Arsenal, Pittsburgh, Pa., May 15th, 1830, graduated from Union College in Schenectady, N. Y., and resides in Paris. Charles Taintor was born in Windham April 13th, 1821, graduated at the Military Academy in 1842, was ap-

pointed lieutenant in the United States army, served in Florida and as instructor in tactics at West Point, and resigned in 1851. He married Ann Bartlett, daughter of Jonathan Dwight, of Springfield, Mass., and came to Windham in 1868, where he died February 28th, 1880. His children were: Ella, Cora (wife of Henry S. F. Davis, of New York city), Anna Dwight (wife of Julian Alden Weir, of New York city, who is a son of Professor Robert Weir, of West Point).

Jerome B. Baldwin, son of Raymond, was born in Mansfield, September 14th, 1843. At the outbreak of the war he joined the 21st Connecticut volunteers and served three years. He returned to Mansfield at the expiration of his enlistment, came to Willimantic in 1865 and in connection with his brother formed the firm of G. R. & J. B. Baldwin for the sale of clothing. His brother's death occurring in 1867 the firm was dissolved and Mr. Baldwin was for the next nine years employed as a clothing salesman by John G. Keigwin, and in 1876 he purchased the stock from his employer and in connection with Frank F. Webb formed a partnership under the style of Baldwin & Webb, which continued till 1886, when he purchased his partner's interest. He married Ella M., daughter of A. B. Adams, and has three children: Emma Bell, Jane May and Georgie Ella. Mr. Baldwin was a member of the Connecticut legislature in 1886.

Robert Barrows, son of Robert (who was the common ancestor of the Mansfield families), was born November 8th, 1689, and came to Mansfield about 1720. He married at Plymouth, Bethia Ford. Their children born at Plymouth were: Jabez, Lemuel and Thomas. Their children born in Mansfield were: Amos, Lydia, David and Elisha. Robert Barrows died November 12th, 1773. Lieutenant Thomas (son of Robert), born September 13th, 1716, married for his first wife Mehitable, daughter of Deacon Experience Porter April 30th, 1741. By her he had a child, Experience, who died at the age of five years. He married Abigail, daughter of John Crane, February 2d, 1743-4, and had the following children: Abigail, married Nathan Palmer; Mehitable, married Thomas Swift, Jr.; Thomas, died in infancy, and Thomas. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Philip Turner, January 9th, 1751-52. His children by this marriage were: Solomon; Mary, married Asa Bennett; Experience, died at Stamford, Conn., and was a soldier in the revolu-

tionary war; Elizabeth, died unmarried, aged 78 years; Philip, Eleazer, Lydia, married Joseph Southworth; Lemuel, and Caleb Turner, who died in New York state. Philip (son of Lieutenant Thomas) was born November 29th, 1760, and resided in Mansfield, where he died August 16th, 1809. He married a widow, Sarah Fisk, daughter of Joshua Parker, March 29th, 1787. Their children were: Sarah, deceased, married Ira Bennett; Philip, deceased; Harmony, died in childhood; Phares, Stephen Fisk, died in New York state; Amasa died in New York state; Celia, married Asa Lyon and died at Fredericksburg, Va., and Thomas Adam, died in Connecticut. Phares (son of Philip), born May 20th, 1797, resided in South Mansfield and married for his first wife Alma Parrott of Pomfret, Conn., May 20th, 1820. His children were: Edwin Augustus, Harriet Sophia, married Joseph B. Spencer of South Windham; Elizabeth Gyles, married Nathan Griggs of Chaplin, and for her second husband Jesse Turner of Chaplin; Sarah Lucinda, married David A. Griggs of Chaplin; Mary A., married Milo M. Hibbard of East Homer, N. Y., and Delia Maria, deceased, married Deacon Waldo Bass of Scotland. Phares was married three times, and died in 1881. Edwin Augustus, son of Phares, born March 28th, 1821, was twice married; first to Anna J. Hanks, second May 21st, 1851, to Emily Ashley of Chaplin. His children, all by his second wife, were: Daniel Clifford, born April 10th, 1853; Edwin and Emily, twins, died in infancy; and Anna Maria, died at the age of six years. Father and son are both doing business in Willimantic, the latter being a jeweller.

Henry Brainard was born in East Haddam, Conn., December 9th, 1794. He came to Willimantic to reside in 1829, and was engaged by the Windham Manufacturing Company for twelve years in teaming from Providence to Willimantic. In 1841 he removed to Marlborough, Conn., remained there four years, and married there Miss Amelia Blish. He then returned to Willimantic and purchased what was known as the Tremont House, which he kept as a hotel till 1854, when he purchased the Brainard Hotel, and enlarged the same and carried on business there till 1862, when he retired. He died March 11th, 1884.

The Brown Family.—The English ancestor of this family was John Brown, who was acquainted with the pilgrims at Leyden before 1620, but the date of his coming to this country is unknown. He settled in Plymouth colony, was at Duxbury, Mass.,

in 1636, at Taunton in 1643, and was an original proprietor and early settler of Rehoboth, Mass. He was assistant in Plymouth colony in 1636, which office he filled for seventeen years, and was one of the commissioners of the United Colonies of New England from 1644 to 1655. He was a large real estate owner in Rehoboth and was a friend of religious toleration, and was the first of the Plymouth magistrates who expressed scruples as to the expediency of coercing the people to support the ministry. He was a man of talent, integrity and piety, and his death, which occurred by fever April 10th, 1662, was felt throughout the whole colony. He had the following children, who were all probably born in England: James, who died at Swansea, October 29th, 1710, aged 87 years; Mary, who married John Willett, and John, who married a daughter of William Buckland, lived in Swansea and died March 31st, 1662. He had the following children: John, Lydia, Hannah, Joseph and Nathaniel. Captain John (son of John above) was born on the last Friday in September, 1650, and married November 8th, 1672, Anna, daughter of Major John Mason, of Norwich, Conn., the hero of the Pequot war. He was held in high estimation by his Mason relatives and the Mohegan Indians, and under date of March 2d, 1677, his brother-in-law, Samuel Mason, gave him a thousand acre right, which was located in what is now Windham, and part of this land is now owned by Elias P. Brown. Captain Brown lived among the stirring scenes of Philip's war, and probably did active service in that struggle. Efforts were made to induce Captain Brown to settle in Windham but without avail. The exact date of his death is not known, but it was previous to 1711. His children were: John, who married Abigail Cole, and died at Swansea in 1752; Lydia, married Joseph Wadsworth, of Lebanon, Conn.; Martha, married Deacon Eleazer Fitch, of Lebanon, Conn.; Daniel, died in infancy; Ebenezer, died in Lebanon, Conn., aged 100 years; Daniel, Stephen and Joseph. Of this family Stephen was born January 29th, 1688, and located on a thousand acre grant of his father in Windham about 1717. He took part in the famous Hartford suit in 1722, in which his cousin, Jeremiah Fitch, of Coventry, was liberated from jail, where he had been imprisoned on account of some decision respecting the Hop river lands. He was married three times; first to Mary Risley in June, 1729, by whom he had one child, Stephen, Jr. His second wife was Abigail, daughter of Thomas

Rugg, of Mansfield, by whom he had one child, Abigail, who became the wife of George Anderson, of Mansfield. His third wife was Mary Jacobs, and the children by this marriage were Mary and John. Stephen died in October, 1766. John (son of Stephen) was born June 18th, 1742, and besides cultivating a farm and keeping a country tavern, carried on the manufacture of potash and the refining of saltpetre, he being the only person in this part of the country who understood the latter business. He was engaged in the revolutionary war, and during that struggle prepared the saltpetre used in the Willimantic powder mills. He was also employed by the state and was highly esteemed by Governor Trumbull. He married December 22d, 1763, Sybil, daughter of Jabez Barrows, of Mansfield. He died in December, 1824, aged 82. His wife died in January, 1837, aged 93. Their children were: Roswell, who died unmarried; Lydia, who married William Spafford and settled at Troy, N. Y.; John, Eunice, married Asa Brace and settled in New York state; Clarissa, married Samuel Babcock and settled at Westmoreland, N. Y.; Asenath, married Nathaniel Fitch and settled at Verona, N. Y.; Sybil, married Jedidiah Fitch and settled at Verona, N. Y.; Jabez, and Lucinda, who married Jabez Cummings, of Mansfield. John (son of John) was born November 16th, 1769, and was married three times. His first wife was Olive Martin, by whom he had the following children: Julia, died young; Roswell, died unmarried; E. Nathan, died in Lebanon, Conn., and Eliphalet, died in Willimantic. His second wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Elias Palmer, of Coventry. The children of this marriage were: Albert Banks, who died in Illinois; Maria Arnold, married Dwight Bailey, of Franklin, Conn., where she died; Elias Palmer, Wealthy, who married Frederick Curtis, of Saugerties, N. Y., where she died; Sarah, deceased, married V. R. Hovey; John Dwight, unmarried, killed by explosion of a powder mill in Manchester, aged 24 years; and Ralph Williams, died aged 8 years. His third wife was Nancy Fitch. He died April 27th, 1841. Elias Palmer (son of John), born May 30th, 1810, married Salina Dickinson. They had six children: Howard Z., born April 9th, 1839, married Lucy Tefft (They have a family of four children: Curtis Palmer, Jessie, Earl and Helen. He is engaged in paper manufacturing in town of Colchester, Conn.); Sarah A., wife of Charles Ladd, of West Winsted, Conn.; Ellen, resides at Gurleyville, Conn.; Edwin M., born September 12th, 1843, married

Carrie Wheeler (He has the following family: Edward M., Carrie, Howard and Pearl. He is engaged in business with his brother); Maria E., resides with her parents, and Mattie A., wife of J. F. Chandler, of East Woodstock, Conn. John (son of John) was born November 17th, 1816, married Rebecca T. Lyon and had three children: Wealthy J., died at the age of 29; Inez M., and John Dayton, born December 12th, 1856, married Nellie Hills and resides at Plainville, Conn.

S. L. Burlingham was born in Killingly, Conn., March 1st, 1845, being the son of Lewis and Eliza (Robbins) Burlingham. He came to Willimantic in 1857, and was employed by the Holland Silk Co. as boss finisher when they opened their works in that borough, and has been in the employ of the company ever since.

The Burnham Family.—All the families of this name in Windham county are descended from Deacon John Burnham, one of three brothers, who was born in England in either 1616 or 1626, and came to Ipswich in 1635. He died November 5th, 1694. His children were: John, Josiah, Anna (married a Low) and Elizabeth (married Thomas Kinsman). Josiah, son of Deacon John, was born May 9th, 1662, and died October 25th, 1692. He married Abigail, daughter of Thomas Varney, and their children were: Josiah, Jacob and Ebenezer, born December 23d, 1690, died March 10th, 1746. Ebenezer came from Ipswich, Mass., to Hampton, Conn., in 1733 or 1734, purchased a farm in that town, and joined the church October 20th, 1734. His children were: Joshua, Ebenezer, Joseph, Andrew, Isaac and Dorothy, who married Captain William Hebard. Andrew, son of Ebenezer, was born May 28th, 1726, and died in 1786. He married May 11th, 1757, Jane, daughter of William Bennet. His children were: Andrew, William, Elizabeth (married Milan Hebard), Sarah, Adonijah, Mercy, Rufus and Enoch. Adonijah, son of Andrew, was born in Hampton July 25th, 1770, and died May 31st, 1827. He married Abigail Fuller. Their children were: Luther, Asa, Anson, Lyman, Chester (the four last dying unmarried), Clarissa (married B. F. Robinson) and Jane E. (married Chester D. Burnham). Luther, son of Adonijah, was born in Williamstown, Vt., November 20th, 1800, married April 29th, 1827, Marcia, daughter of Jonah Lincoln, and had the following children: Marcia M. and Lucy A., died in childhood; Lucy M., died aged 20 years; Edward L., Ellen F. (deceased), married to

Hon. Lester Hunt; and Stowell L., a lieutenant in the 82d Ohio regiment, killed at the battle of Gettysburg, aged 25 years. Luther was a member of the legislature in 1849 and 1862, and removed to the town of Windham about 1830. He married for his second wife Jane W., daughter of Ralph Lincoln, and died April 28th, 1878. Edward L., son of Luther, was born in Windham October 18th, 1833, and married December 13th, 1865, Sarah E. Peck, a native of Chaplin. They have had five children, two of whom died young, viz., Anna Porter and Edward L. The others are Stowell L., Ellen C. and John P. William, son of Andrew, married Lois Grow. Their children were: Elisha, William, Rufus, Lucius, Marcus, Mason, Lois (died at the age of 18) and Marvin. There were two other children who died young. Elisha, son of William, married Phebe Avery. Their children were: Edwin E., Alfred A. (deceased), Lucy Ann (married Wolcott Carey, of Hampton), Redelia (wife of James Smith, of Windham), and Amanda (deceased), married to Charles Larrabee, of Windham. Elisha was a blacksmith and owned a saw mill, and lived in what is now Scotland. Edwin E., son of Elisha, was born in Windham October 16th, 1816, and married Amanda, daughter of Captain Dan Lincoln. They have two children: Adelaide, wife of Samuel L. Burlingham, treasurer of the Holland Silk Company, and Emeline, wife of W. H. Latham. William, son of William, was born in Windham in July, 1797, and died July 31st, 1836. He married and had three children, of whom only two arrived at maturity. They were George W. and Eliza (deceased), who married Doctor Fred. Coe, who was a Christian minister and came from an Ashford family. William removed from his native town to Ohio and joined the Shakers at Watervliet in that state. He subsequently returned to Connecticut, became a member of the Shaker village in Enfield, and remained with them eight years, then returned to his native town. George W., son of William, was born at Milford, Ohio, December 7th, 1818, married Miranda Smith and has had five children: Sarah, died aged 4½ years; Delia, George A., married Nancy Babcock, and died at the age of 34, leaving two children, Estella M. and Agnes; Eva, wife of Henry Edgerton, of Shirley, Mass., and Sarah, who married Eugene M. Lincoln, and died aged 25.

Martin Card was born in Lebanon, April 10th, 1823. He was the son of Thomas and grandson of Joseph, both of whom lived to be 92 years of age and were natives of Rhode Island. Martin

was long engaged in the butchering business, from which he retired in 1885. He married Lydia Fitch and has two children: Clinton, who resides in South Windham, and Annie.

Horace M. Chapman, born in Russell, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., September 6th, 1818, is the son of Parley and Roxa (McKnight) Chapman. At the age of six his parents removed from New York to their native town of Ellington, Conn. He was a resident of Ellington till 1880, when he came to Willimantic. While in the former town he was engaged in farming, and while in Willimantic was engaged in the flour and feed business, being a member of the firm of A. Arnold & Co. He married Julia Ann Tiffany, of Somers. They have had two children: Willie, who died aged 26, and Maria, wife of Ansel Arnold, of Willimantic. Mr. Chapman is a democrat. He was a member of the legislature in 1861 from Ellington, and held town offices in that town. He has been warden of the borough of Willimantic.

James A. Conant, born in Mansfield August 16th, 1829, is the eldest son of Lucius and Mary E. (Eaton) Conant, and is a lineal descendant of Roger Conant, who came to America in 1623. At the age of fifteen he engaged in the silk business, which he has followed ever since, excepting one year, when he was engaged in farming, and about seven years, when he was employed by the Watertown Manufacturing Company. He has been in the employ of the Hollands since the spring of 1864, and holds the position of superintendent of the throwing department. He married Caroline A. Chapman, and has one son, John W., a resident of Easthampton, Conn. He is superintendent of the throwing department for the Eureka Manufacturing Company at that place. He married Nellie Blood and has two children. Mr. Conant married for his second wife Mary Etta, widow of Andrew Brown.

William H. Cranston, born in Wickford, R. I., May 17th, 1814, is the fifth child and fourth son of a family of eleven children, of Thomas and Alice (Eldridge) Cranston. At the age of eighteen he entered a mill and was at one time employed by the Spragues in their mills at Natick, R. I. He came to Mansfield in 1842 and engaged in farming for three years. He then removed to Willimantic and was employed by the Windham Manufacturing Company as overseer, which position he held till 1861. He was afterward with the Smithville Manufacturing Company

till 1865, when he removed to Corry, Pa., but returned to Willimantic in 1868 and was engaged with the Smithville Manufacturing Company till 1873, when he retired from active business. His first wife was Safety Prosser, by whom he had one child, William, who married Alice Prosser, and died at the age of 37, leaving one son, Allen Lincoln Cranston, who resides in Willimantic. His second wife was Mary Saunders.

Hezekiah Hammond, son of Hezekiah, married Polly Greenlit and had four children: Elisha Griffin, Mary Ann, widow of Edward Moseley, of Hampton; Maria, (deceased) married William Brown, of Hampton, and Albert, died at the age of 4 years. Hezekiah married for his second wife Hannah Warner, of Ashford, by whom he had the following children: Charlotte Lucinda, widow of Gurdon Brown, resides in Brooklyn, Conn.; Helen Elizabeth, wife of Edwin Walter Payne, of Philadelphia; Frances Jane (deceased), married Edwin S. Chase, of Brooklyn, Conn.; and Lucy Griffin (deceased), married Hiram Waldo Richmond, of Brooklyn, Conn. Hezekiah removed from Hampton to Brooklyn, where he died. Elisha Griffin, son of Hezekiah, was born in Hampton, Conn., May 26th, 1805, and married Olive Johnson, of Windham. Their children are: Emily, wife of Henry B. Perry, who resides in New York state; George, died single, aged 20 years; Mary Ann, wife of Ellis Harkness, of New York city; Levi Johnson and Hezekiah Griffin, twins, resided in Windham. Mr. Hammond has been a resident of Windham since 1833.

Robert W. Hooper, born in Winchendon, Mass., March 24th, 1817, is the second son in a family of eight children of Linus and Susan (Wilcox) Hooper. In 1831 he came to Willimantic with his mother. He entered a mill at the age of ten at Manchester, Conn., afterward went to Vernon, Conn., and in 1831 was employed by the Windham County Mills, where he remained till 1851. The next six years he was a traveling salesman, and in 1857 he commenced the retail dry goods business in the Old Franklin Building in Willimantic. This was burned and he erected the present building and continued business till 1886, when he retired.

Albert Hartson was born in Mansfield, July 25th, 1820, and is the youngest of six children of Nathaniel and Sarah (Lincoln) Hartson. He removed to Windham in 1842, and married Mary J., daughter of Nathaniel Flint of Hampton. They had two

children: Elizabeth, wife of Hezekiah Utley of North Windham, and Lester M., who was born in Windham, November 10th, 1846, and married Delia C., daughter of Philander Fuller of Hampton. They have two children, Howard and Leslie. Mr. Hartson is engaged in the manufacture of specialties which are used by silk manufacturers. This industry he started at North Windham in 1868, and has customers in every part of the United States.

The Hatch Family.—It is recorded that the first settlers of this family were from England, and were three brothers, one of whom settled in New London, Conn., another at Boston, Mass., while the third one located in Nova Scotia. Samuel, who located at New London, was a baker by trade, and had the following family: Samuel, Elijah, Peter, Joshua, Joseph, Daniel, Stephen, John, and three daughters. Samuel, son of Samuel, was born September 26th, 1738, was a shoemaker, and married Naomi Phelps of Lebanon. They had ten children: Eleazer, Samuel, Asel, Joseph, Tryphena and Salena, twins, who died single; David, Jonathan, Naomi, who married Eleazer Fitch, and Elijah. Samuel died April 30th, 1815. Jonathan, son of Samuel second, was born January 6th, 1777, and married Betsey Payne. Their children were: Samuel Orville, Naomi Eliza (died aged 13), Chester Payne (resides in California), Jonathan, James Chandler (died in infancy), Elijah Phelps (lives in South Windham), James Chandler (lives in Avon, Conn.), Caroline Eliza (deceased, married James Babcock), and Nelson (died in California). Jonathan died October 5th, 1833. Samuel Orville, son of Jonathan, was born in Lebanon, Conn., June 2d, 1809, married Eunice T. Armstrong, and had the following children: E. Eliza, lives in South Windham; John O., born in Franklin, Conn., March 4th, 1840 (engaged in farming until age of 19, when he learned the machinist's trade, and was employed by Smith Winchester Company until his death, September 25th, 1885. He married Edna L. Gavitt of Willimantic, and left no children); Jonathan A., died aged 30 years; Mary A., died aged 18; Henry Chester, born in Franklin, Conn., December 2d, 1846, married Lucretia, daughter of Oliver Johnson of Franklin, Conn., has no children (is a machinist by trade, and has been in the employ of the Smith Winchester Company for twenty-three years); Hattie A., wife of William C. Backus of South Windham; Adella B., wife of Eugene Kinne of South Windham; Charles P., resides in Hartford, Conn.; Carrie L. and Lillie L., residents of South Windham. Samuel O. died June 13th, 1877.

James M. Hebard, son of Gurdon, was born in Scotland, Conn., September 19th, 1815. He was in early life a music teacher, but on arriving at manhood, engaged in the railroad business, and from 1853 to 1867 was purchasing agent for the New York and Hudson River railroad, but on account of ill health was obliged to give up his position. He married Delia Benton, daughter of Doctor Chester Hunt. He died December 25th, 1882.

Eli Hewitt, youngest son of Eli and Betsey (Williams) Hewitt, was born in Stonington, Conn., June 28th, 1815, came to Windham in his early manhood, and was engaged in farming. He married Mary, daughter of Gilbert Lamb, of Franklin, Conn., and had two children: Gilbert L., a wholesale grocer in Norwich, Conn., and Mary A. Eli Hewitt died September 17th, 1887.

Elisha Holmes married Sally Harris, and had a large family of children, as follows: Samuel; Sally, married Robert Bishop; Lois, married Jonathan Forsyth; Pauline, married Noah Wood; Charlotte and Marcia, both married Holcombs; Elisha H.; Griswold; Lucretia, married a Brown; Mary, and Alice, died unmarried. Elisha Harlow was born in Chesterfield, Conn., October 29th, 1799, and came to Windham in 1818. He was a cabinet maker by trade. He also was a farmer, had a grist and plaster mill, and was engaged in the dredging business. He married Lydia, daughter of Amos D. Allen, by whom he had seven children, of whom only two lived to maturity, viz., Lydia Allen and Elisha Harlow. He died October 21st, 1886. Elisha Harlow, son of Elisha Harlow, was born in Windham, July 13th, 1844, married Sarah W. Johnson, and has four children: Richard Johnson, Alice Lydia, Grace Sarah and Florence Jane.

The Lincoln Family.—Tradition says that the first settlers of this family came from Lincolnshire, England, and made settlement at Hingham and Taunton, Mass. A son of the Taunton settler named Samuel, came to Norwich and the supposition is that he afterward removed to Windham. He married June 2d, 1692, Elizabeth Jacobs, and had the following children: Samuel, Jacob, Mercy, Thomas, Jonah, Nathaniel (died in infancy) and Elizabeth. Samuel, son of Samuel, was born in Windham November 29th, 1693, married in 1723 Ruth Huntingdon, and their family were: Samuel, John, Nathaniel, Joseph, Eleazer and David. John, son of Samuel, was born July 28th, 1726, and married Rebecca ———, by whom he had two children, both of whom died young. He afterward married Annie

Stowell May 30th, 1758, and their family were: Annie, Eleazer, Jonah and Jerusha (twins), and Olive. John died June 7th, 1810. Jonah, son of John, born November 15th, 1760, married Lucy Webb, and their children were: James, John, Dan, Stowell, Ralph, Albert, Elisha, Burr, Lucy, married Benjamin Perry, and Marcia, married Luther Burnham. James, son of Jonah, born May 31st, 1784, married November 28th, 1811, and had a large family. Marvin, son of James, born in Windham, May 6th, 1813, married Asenath Brooks, and has two children: Herbert Selden, resides at Springfield, Mass., born October 28th, 1837, married Isabel Brooks, and has two children, Herbert Edward and Alice; and Julia Alice, married Bernard R. Green. Lorin, son of James, born December 3d, 1819, married Elizabeth Parker of Ashford, and has two children; Maria E., wife of John G. Bill of Willimantic, and M. Eugene, born February 23d, 1849, married Sarah, daughter of George W. Burnham, by whom he has one child, Louis B., born March 22d, 1876. His second wife is Edith M., daughter of Frank M. Lincoln, and they have one child, Frank M., born July 17th, 1884. Ralph, son of Jonah, was born in Windham, December 22d, 1792, and married Almira Trumbull of Mansfield. He had four children: Frank M., Jane W., widow of Luther Burnham, a resident of Willimantic; Charles Trumbull, resides at Putnam, Conn., and Delia, wife of David R. McCray, of Hampden, Mass. Ralph died June 24th, 1876. Frank M., son of Ralph, was born December 24th, 1816, and married Mary N., daughter of Rufus Burnham, and has one child, Edith M., wife of M. Eugene Lincoln. Stowell, son of Jonah, was born in Windham, October 20th, 1788, and married Maria Welch September 28th, 1815. Their children were: Emily Maria, died aged 8 years; Dwight Fitch, died aged 6 years; George, and Dwight Fitch, a resident of Hartford, Conn. Stowell died March 29th, 1870, and his wife died September 3d, 1887, aged 98 years, 3 months and 6 days. George, son of Stowell, born in Windham, November 27th, 1821, married Caroline Maria, daughter of Samuel A. Lincoln, and has two children, George Arthur and Stowell W., both residents of New York city. Nathaniel, son of Samuel, was born in Windham November 18th, 1728, and married December 21st, 1757, Agnes Austin. He died March 16th, 1834. His children were: Nathaniel, Owen died in New York state; Lora, married D. Spafford, and died in Scotland; Fanny, married John Robbins,

and died in New York state; Samuel Austin, died in Windham; Warner, died in Mansfield; Olive, died young; Henry, resides in Scotland; and Lucius, died in New York state. Nathaniel, son of Nathaniel, was born February 1st, 1771, and married June 10th, 1792, Anna Stowell. They had but one child, Sumner Lee. Nathaniel married for his second wife Huldah Warner, and died December 27th, 1864, being over 93 years of age. Sumner Lee, son of Nathaniel, born November 26th, 1820, married Cordelia Kimball of Scotland. He died May 18th, 1879. He had but one child, Edwin Sumner, who was born June 15th, 1849, and married Mary, daughter of Edmund A. Kendall of Ashford. They have one child, Florence Sumner.

The Page family is among the oldest families of Windham. William, who married Lucy Upton, had seven children: William, Tryphena, married Lucius Funk of Windham; James, Amy, married Elisha Jenner; Laura, married Whitman Porter, and Lucy, married Ezra Child. James, son of William, married Maria Backus and had six children: Henry, Charlotte, widow of Henry Smith, resides at Willimantic; Thomas, lives in Holyoke, Mass.; Freeloove, died single; Edward and Abby, both lived in Willimantic. Henry, son of James, married Mary Stoddard, and has three children: Frank, lives in Putnam, Conn.; Charles, lives in Willimantic, and Mary, wife of William H. Wales of Willimantic.

John Perkins, a native of Newent, Gloucestershire, England, came from that country to Ipswich, Mass., in 1630. He died in 1654. He married Judith ———, and of a family of six children Jacob was his fifth child and youngest son. He was born in England in 1624, married Elizabeth ——— and died in Ipswich, January 29th, 1700. He was known as Sergeant Jacob Perkins, and he left a large family of children, of whom Joseph and Jabez, his eighth and ninth children, came to Norwich, Conn. Joseph, known as the deacon, was born at Ipswich, June 21st or 22d, 1674, and married May 22d, 1700, Martha Morgan. He died September 4th, 1726, and of his family of eleven children Matthew was the sixth child and third son. He was born at Norwich, August 31st, 1713, and married, in 1739, Hannah, a daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Fobes) Bishop. Of his family of thirteen children Samuel was the youngest child. He was born in Lisbon, Conn., September 13th, 1767, and married, February 24th, 1793, Nancy, daughter of Solomon and Ann (Dennison)

Huntingdon. He graduated from Yale College in 1785, having studied for the ministry, which he followed a short time and then commenced the practice of law in Windham, where he died September 22d, 1850. He had a family of four children: Ann Huntingdon, Samuel Huntingdon, Harriet, and Horatio Nelson, who died in infancy. Samuel Huntingdon was born in Windham, February 15th, 1797, and married for his first wife Charlotte, daughter of Jabez and Anna (Clarke) Elderkin, by whom he had one child that died in infancy. He married the second time Mary F., daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah Donnell. The children of this marriage were: William Donnell, who died young; Samuel Clarke; Robert Smith, died in infancy, and Charlotte Ann, single, who resides in Philadelphia. For his third wife he married Margaret, widow of Charles Dyott. He was a graduate of Yale College, class of 1817, and practiced law in Philadelphia during his life. He died in that city May 4th, 1874. He was a prominent Mason and Odd Fellow, having been grand sire of the latter order and grand master for the state of Pennsylvania in the Masonic order. Samuel Clarke was born in Philadelphia, November 24th, 1828, graduated from Yale College in 1848, and in 1888 received the degree of LL.D. from that college. He is engaged in the practice of law in his native city, and himself and father have been for seventy consecutive years elders in the First Presbyterian church of that city. He is president of the board of commissioners for the erection of public buildings of Philadelphia, one of the vice-presidents of the Union League Club, also president since 1880 of the University Club, is a prominent Mason, and has been grand master of Pennsylvania.

Elisha Benjamin Sharp, eldest son of Elder Elisha B. and Fannie (Gardiner) Sharp, was born in New London, Conn., February 7th, 1821. He removed to North Windham with his father at the age of two, afterward went to live in Scotland and came to South Windham in 1870, where he died June 13th, 1884. He was engaged in buying produce for the Providence markets. He married Jerusha A., daughter of John Morgan, and has had two children: Milo B., resides in Lebanon, Conn., and Myron P., died aged 30 years.

Of the Spencer family the first one to settle in Windham was Samuel, who came into the town about 1800. He had a large family of children, of whom Charles married Lucy Dewey,

and had a family of ten children, among whom was Freeman D., who was born in Windham, October 22d, 1820, and married Lucy D. Utley, of Hampton. They have two children: Anna, and Charles, born December 25th, 1854, married Elva M. Phillips, and has one child, Mabel.

Rowland Swift came from Wareham; Mass., to Lebanon, Conn., and died there February 13th, 1795, aged 73. He married Mary ———, removed to Mansfield, Conn., and had the following family: Abigail, married a Peabody; Rowland, settled in New York; Zephania, a resident of Windham, became a chief justice of the state and died in Ohio, in 1823; Mary, married Lathrop Davis, of Mansfield; William and Thankful. William, son of Rowland, was born in Lebanon, and died in 1835, aged 75. He married Abigail Clark, of Lebanon, and had two children: Abigail, who died unmarried, and Justin, born in Lebanon, November, 3d, 1793, and married Lucy, daughter of John and Sally Lathrop. They had four children: Abby and Sarah, died unmarried; William and Julia, resided in Windham. Justin died in September, 1884. He was a merchant, and was in the latter years of his life engaged in the manufacture of cotton goods at North Windham and Willimantic. William, son of Justin, was born in Windham, March 16th, 1823, married Harriet G. Byrne and has two children: William B., a lieutenant in the United States Navy, and Abby, wife of Charles R. Utley, of Willimantic.

Chester Tilden was the son of Ebenezer and was born in Lebanon, Conn. He came to Willimantic in 1827 and formed the First Baptist society, which was organized at his residence and of which he was the first pastor. He was by trade a stone mason and was foreman at the building of the first stone mill in Willimantic, which is the present spool shop of the Willimantic Linen Company. He removed to Andover, Conn., in 1831, where he remained two or three years. He then removed to New London, Conn., and was pastor of the First Baptist and Bethel society. He afterward preached at various places in Connecticut and Massachusetts, but finally returned to Willimantic, where he died at the age of 77 years. He married Nancy Maria Yeomans, of Columbia, Conn., and had six children: Austin B., died at the age of 21; Maria, died in childhood; Chester; Samuel D., resides in Brooklyn, N. Y.; Henry, died aged two years, 2d Augustus F., died aged nineteen years. Chester, son of

Chester, was born in Lebanon, Conn., January 25th, 1826, married Jane L. King, of Mansfield, and has had four children: Theresa E., wife of Herbert T. Congdon, of Willimantic; Augustus F., a resident of Willimantic, married Susie A. Randall and has two children, Fred C. and Belle; George C., died aged one year, and Nettie V., wife of William H. P. Swett, a resident of Willimantic. Mr. Tilden engaged in seafaring at the age of nineteen and has visited every quarter of the globe. His first voyage was in the whaler "United States," of Nantucket, in which voyage he was wrecked on the Fiji islands. He has been master of three different vessels, and has commanded both English and American craft. He abandoned seafaring life in 1852, and has since been engaged in business in Willimantic, being at present in the insurance and loan business.

John Tracy, only son of Zebediah Tracy, was born in Scotland, Conn., February 21st, 1812. He came to Willimantic in 1829 and engaged as clerk in the Windham Manufacturing Company's store, soon afterward became bookkeeper and finally a partner with Matthew Watson in the corporation, and was for over thirty years resident agent of the corporation. He married Delia, daughter of Philip and Sophia Barrows. Their children were: Oliva, died aged nineteen years; John Theodore, a resident of Fair Haven, Conn.; Delia, married James H. Campbell, and died aged thirty-two years; Julia Ida, wife of William Goldman Reed, of Boston, and Cora, died at the age of two years and seven months. John Tracy died May 8th, 1874.

The Wales family is one of the oldest families of Windham, and the first one of whom we have any record is Nathaniel, whose son Nathan married Rosamond Robinson and had the following family: Nathaniel, Peter, Nancy, who married Darius Hicks, of Pomfret; Fannie, married Elisha Hebard, of Hampton; Philena, married a Ripley; and Jerusha, married Thomas Grow, of Hampton. Peter, son of Nathan, was born in Windham in September, 1801, and died in February, 1883. He married Sally, daughter of Benjamin Perry, and had nine children, one of whom died in infancy. The others were: Susan, died aged 5; Mary, widow of R. W. Putnam, resides in Windham; Laura, widow of Gardiner Thurston, resides in Norwich, Conn.; Deborah, wife of Joel W. Webb, of Willimantic; Sarah, wife of Luther Barstow, of Willimantic; Henry N.; Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Belfield, of Pawtucket, R. I.; and Cleveland, lives in Franklin,

Conn. Henry N., son of Peter, born in Windham, August 10th, 1837, married Euphemia A., daughter of Warren Tanner, and has no children. He received only a common school education, and was engaged in farming till the age of twenty-one. From 1861 to 1867 he was engaged in mercantile business at South Windham and Willimantic, being a member of the firm of Webb & Wales. From 1867 to 1872 he was employed by George H. Norman, of Newport, R. I., in constructing water works at different points in New England. He was employed from 1872 to 1877 in erecting water works for the city of Manchester, N. H., and by the city of Boston on the Sudbury river conduit. At the commencement of 1877 he returned to Willimantic, and in the spring of 1879 was employed by Hyde Kingsley to manage his lumber and coal business, where he continued till 1883. He has been town clerk several times, and was appointed postmaster of Willimantic for four years in December, 1885. In 1882 he was chosen chairman of the committee for the purpose of ascertaining the best method of introducing water into the borough, and a commission of three was chosen in January, 1884, of which he was one, his term expiring in January, 1887. During this time the present water works were built.

HAMPTON.

William Bennett, born October 17th, 1807, in Hampton, was one of the five children of William and Anna (Fuller) Bennett, and grandson of Isaac, who was first representative to the general assembly from Hampton. He was the son of William, who came to Hampton from Ipswich, Mass., about 1738. William Bennett represented Hampton in the general assembly in 1841 and 1853, and held various town offices. He married November 15th, 1836, and had two children: Edward B., born in April, 1842, is a lawyer at Hartford; and George W., born February 9th, 1851, married Ellen Robinson April 10th, 1878, and has three children: Norman B., born October 5th, 1878; Anna C., born July 13th, 1880; and Howard R., born June 18th, 1883. George W. was educated at the schools of Hampton, Willimantic, and Exeter, N. H. He has held various town offices and is a farmer.

Abel Burdick, son of Rowland Burdick, was born in Voluntown, Conn., in 1836. He enlisted in 1862 in the 18th Connecticut volunteers, Company E, for three years, and served till the close of the war. Since then he has been engaged in farming.

He was in the battles of Winchester, Piedmont, Cedar Creek, and other important engagements. He married in 1861 Susan Phillips, and they have nine children: Charles, born 1863; Bertha, born 1865; Dwight, born 1867; Emma, born 1872; Mary, born 1874; Madeline, born 1877; James, born 1878; Frank, born 1885; and Grace, born 1887.

Dwight Burdick, son of Rowland Burdick, was born in Griswold, Conn., in 1837, and came to Hampton about 1855. He enlisted in August, 1861, in the 18th Connecticut volunteers, and served till the close of the war. He was in the battles of Winchester and Piedmont, and was wounded in the latter battle June 5th, 1864. June 5th, 1861, he was married to Delia E. Owen, of Hampton. They have two children: Carrie E., born 1866, and Mabel V., born in 1877.

Dwight A. Burnham, born in Hampton in 1836, is a son of Reverend Alfred Burnham, who was a descendant in the sixth generation of Deacon John Burnham, who was born in England and settled in Ipswich, Mass., in 1635. Dwight A. was married to Laurana Barber, of Richmond, R. I., in April, 1860. Their children are: Warren D., born August, 1866, and Anna N., born October 23d, 1870.

James A. Burnham, born in Hampton April 20th, 1832, is a son of Jesse Burnham, who was a great-grandson of Ebenezer Burnham, who came from Ipswich, Mass., to Hampton, in 1733-34. Ebenezer was a grandson of Deacon John Burnham, who came from England and settled in Ipswich, Mass., in 1635. James A. was married to Mary E. Starkweather May 8th, 1861. Their children are: Mary E., born May 14th, 1862; Lester H., born April 1st, 1865; Olive E., born May 9th, 1866; Frank J., born February, 1870; Fred. A., born December 23d, 1871; Charles E., born November 7th, 1874.

Lyndon T. Button, born in Hampton in 1817, is a son of Charles C. and Lucy (Thurston) Button, and grandson of Roswell Button. Charles C. served in the war of 1812. Lyndon T. Button has been engaged in the hotel and mercantile business, and in later years in farming. He represented the town in the legislature of 1860, and was appointed county commissioner of Windham county in 1866 for three years, and has held various town offices. In November, 1838, he was married to Sarah A. Curtiss. Their children are: Mary G., married William H. Burnham, and Worthington B., born in 1853.

Henry Clapp was born in Hampton in 1847. He was a son of David and Temperance (White) Clapp. David Clapp came from Norton, Mass., to Hampton in 1833, and was a son of Jonathan Clapp. Henry Clapp has been engaged in school teaching and farming, has been selectman and held other town offices, and is a deacon in the church. He was married to Sarah E. Kinney, of Plainfield, in 1875, and has one daughter, Nellie F., born in 1880.

Reuben Elliott, son of Thomas, whose ancestors were among the first settlers in the county, was born in Thompson, in 1826, and came to Hampton in 1850. Mr. Elliott is a successful farmer. He was married March 5th, 1849, to Adeline Covell, of Killingly, and has two children; Josephine, born in 1854, and Everett A., who was born in 1862, and is a school teacher.

George W. Fuller, born in Hampton in 1836, is a son of James Fuller and grandson of Benjamin Fuller. He taught school in early life and traveled extensively through the Southern states. He married, in 1870, Eunice Hammond, a descendant of John Alden, who was the first to leap from the "Mayflower" upon Plymouth Rock in 1620. They have four sons and four daughters.

J. Henry Fuller, born in Ashford, February 23d, 1827, is a son of Elisha and Irene (Francis) Fuller, and grandson of Benjamin Fuller. The Fuller family were among the first settlers of Hampton. Mr. Fuller learned the trade of blacksmith, which has been his principal business. He was married November 23d, 1851, to Mary, daughter of Moses Adams, of Canterbury, and descended from the first settlers of Massachusetts.

Benjamin C. Grant, son of Asa and grandson of Benjamin Grant, was born in Wrentham, Mass., in 1822, and came to Pomfret in 1832. In early life he was a farmer and later a merchant, which has been his chief business. He was appointed postmaster at Pomfret Landing in 1852, which office he held seven years. He is now postmaster at Clark's Corner. He was married in 1844 to Mary A. Fuller and second to Julia Avery, in 1877. He has three children: George L., born August 6th, 1857; Charles, born in 1855, and Fred B., born in 1878.

Alfred Hammond was born in Hampton in 1809. He was a son of Uriel and Sally (Holt) Hammond. Uriel was a soldier in the war of 1812, and was a son of Josiah, who came to Hampton from Vermont. Alfred Hammond was engaged in school teach-

ing and farming, represented the town in the legislature in 1865, held various town offices, was for many years one of the foremost men of Hampton and died July 1st, 1876. He was married April 28th, 1841, and his children were: John, born 1843, enlisted in 26th Connecticut volunteers, served at siege of Port Hudson, died July, 1888; Cynthia Ann, born November 24th, 1845; Eunice, born October 25th, 1848, married George Fuller, and Irving W., born 1854, married Mary E. Rawson in 1888.

George M. Holt, born in Hampton January 2d, 1829, is a son of James Holt and a descendant in the seventh generation from Nicholas Holt, who came from Southampton, England, to Boston in 1635. He represented Hampton in the general assembly in 1877, has been selectman several years, and held minor town offices. He was married in 1854 to Abby, daughter of Alexander Dorrance, a descendant of Reverend Samuel Dorrance, who graduated at the University of Glasgow in 1709, and was first pastor of the first church in Voluntown, Conn. Their children are: Helen C., born August 10th, 1855, and Mary L., born April 18th, 1859.

Sylvester G. Holt, brother of George M., was born at Hampton, November 1st, 1812, and was one of eight children. He has held various town offices. He was married to Elizabeth Curtiss February 24th, 1840.

Allen Jewett was born in Hampton in 1839. He is a son of Ebenezer Jewett, born 1799, who married Maria Jennings in 1824, and grandson of Ebenezer, born in 1748. He learned the trade of carpenter but is also engaged in farming. He was postmaster at Clark's Corner two years, and served as member of the board of education. He was married to Fannie Wheeler, of Stonington, Conn., December 18th, 1866, and has two children: Wallace, born June 26th, 1870, and Elmer, born January 11th, 1873.

Abijah Perkins was born in Lisbon (now Sprague), New London county, in 1833, and came to Hampton about 1835. He is a son of Milton Perkins and grandson of Abijah Perkins. His mother was Josephine Tibbetts, who married Milton Perkins in 1832 and had two children: Abijah, and Milton, who lives at Ann Arbor, Mich. Mr. Perkins is a farmer. He married E. Louise Cowles, of East Hartford, in 1859, and they have two sons: George M., born 1860, and Fred C., born 1868.

Charles Spalding, born in Hampton in 1824, is a son of Joseph and Olive (Farnham) Spalding, whose children were: Olive, Chloe, Joseph and Charles. Charles Spalding is a farmer and unmarried.

George M. Thompson, born in Hampton, April 27th, 1827, is a son of Moses Thompson, Jr., whose ancestry came to this country with Roger Williams. In early life he followed farming. At twenty-four years of age he adopted the life of a seaman, and in 1854 he was commissioned chief engineer in ocean steam service and served in that capacity for several years. In later years he returned to farming. He married Anna E. Tipton and their children were: Charles W., Georgianna, George M., Catharine A., Dora, Gertrude, and Eleazar B.

Roger S. Williams was born in Canterbury May 27th, 1819, and is a son of Benjamin Williams, who married Betsey Smith, and is supposed to be descended from one of the Pilgrim Fathers who came from England in the "Mayflower." Mr. Williams came to Hampton in 1839. In early life he learned the trade and followed the business of blacksmithing and in later years has been farming. He represented Hampton in the legislature of 1857, was selectman for seventeen years, and has held many other town offices. He married Amelia Witter, daughter of Asa Witter in 1841. She died in 1882. Their children are: Adelaide, born 1842; Anna, born 1845, married in 1866 George Holt, who died in 1873.

SCOTLAND.

S. N. Ashley, born March 18th, 1827, in Chaplin, Conn., is a son of Luther and Eliza (Humphrey) Ashley, and grandson of Jonathan and Lydia Humphrey. In 1860 he married Jane Bass. Their children are: Luther, born October 22d, 1865, and Eliza, born January 7th, 1868. Mr. Ashley served in the 26th Connecticut Infantry for about one year in the rebellion and saw much hard service.

Egbert Bass, born January 29th, 1828, is a son of John and Elizabeth (Smith) Bass, and grandson of Ebenezer and Ruth (Waldo) Bass. He has been selectman, constable and collector, and has held other town offices. He was married in 1855, and has children: W. C., born 1856; J. L., December 25th, 1858; Edgar E., August 30th, 1861; Gertrude M., November 4th, 1863; Ellen L., January 5th, 1867; Chauncey M., September

4th, 1869; Lucy E., February 15th, 1872, and Hattie M., December 17th, 1874.

W. C. Bass was born in Scotland in 1827, and is a son of Nathan Bass. He was educated in the common schools, and is a farmer. He was a member of the assembly in 1883, and has held various town offices. He married in 1858 Elmira Smith, of Scotland. He is a member of the Congregational church and a republican.

Dwight Cary, born in the town of Scotland in 1817, is a son of Sandford and a grandson of James Cary. In 1868 he was elected as representative and has held many minor offices in the town. He married Susan Bass, of Scotland, who has borne him nine children, six of whom are living. Mr. Cary is a member of the Congregational church.

F. W. Cunningham, born May 23d, 1852, in Scotland, is a son of William Cunningham and Almantha Bingham, and grandson of John C. Cunningham and Jemima Story. His paternal grandparents were Gamaliel Bingham and Betsey Robinson. Mr. Cunningham is a merchant miller. He was married March 4th, 1877, to Annie Beckwith, and has two children, Annie and Joseph.

John P. Gager was born in Scotland May 20th, 1819. His father was J. P. Gager and his mother Chloe Baker. His grandfather was Jason Gager and his great-grandfather John G. Gager. Mr. Gager has represented his town in the state legislature. He married Lucy Ann Brumley and their children are: Nancy B., Ellen M., Arthur F., Susie L. and Flora. He is a member of the Universalist church.

John D. Moffitt, born September 25th, 1849, is a son of Lyman D. Moffitt and Alice Whipple. He is engaged in manufacturing, milling and farming. He was married June 19th, 1873, and has four children.

A. W. Parkhurst was born July 27th, 1824, in Scotland, Conn. His father was Anthony S., and his grandfather Elias Parkhurst. Mr. Parkhurst has held many town offices, and was representative in 1881. He married Nancy C. Palmer, December 2d, 1850. Their children are: Lunett, born October 1st, 1851; Estella N., March 12th, 1853, and Eva T., September 24th, 1855. Mr. Parkhurst and his wife are members of the Congregational church.

CHAPLIN.

Jirah L. Backus was born in Chaplin in 1828. He was educated at Chaplin, represented the town of Chaplin in the legislature in 1872, and has held various town offices. He was married in 1852 to Susan Dodge of Eastford. Their children are: Clinton, born in 1853, graduated at Amherst College in 1883; married Carrie Haskin, and is a teacher at St. Paul; Charles, born in 1856, graduated at Eastman's Business College, is a banker at Hampshire, Ill., married in 1884 Emma L. Sisley; Annie, born in 1858, married Robert W. Stephenson of Hampshire, Ill.; Nellie, born in 1870.

Merrick Barton, born in Chaplin, September 14th, 1830, is a son of Ebenezer Barton, and grandson of Elkanah Barton, who came to Mansfield (now Chaplin) in 1796. Merrick Barton was one of five children. He was educated at the schools of Chaplin. He represented the town in the legislature of 1883, and has held various town offices. He married, December 6th, 1871, Asenath U. Griggs of Chaplin, daughter of Daniel Griggs, and has three children; Charles M., born April 19th, 1878; Eda G., born July 10th, 1880, and Horace A., born December 3d, 1872.

John H. Holt, son of John Holt, was born in 1818 in Hampton, Conn. He married Eliza M. Evans of New York, July 26th, 1840. Their children are: Charles E., born in 1842, enlisted in 26th Connecticut volunteers for nine months, was in the siege of Port Hudson, enlisted second time in August, 1864, in heavy artillery, and served till the close of the war; Delia E.; Marcus B., born February 1st, 1845, enlisted December 13th, 1861, in the 11th Connecticut volunteers, served in Burnside's expedition, was in battles of Roanoke island and Antietam, also other engagements, died of sickness at Washington, December 26th, 1862; and John H., born October 27th, 1846.

F. C. Lummis is a son of John Lummis, who was born February 13th, 1819, married Rowena Chapman in 1851, enlisted in Company D, 18th Connecticut volunteers, was in the battles of Newmarket and Winchester, was taken prisoner at Winchester, and died at Andersonville Prison in November, 1864. He was a grandson of John Lummis, an ensign in the French and Indian war. John Lummis had three children: Frank C., born in 1852; George E., born October 18th, 1853, and Delia, born June 6th, 1855.

Porter B. Peck was born July 16th, 1816, in Mansfield, and died June 28th, 1884. He was a farmer and school teacher. He was judge of probate one term, represented the town in the legislature in 1857, was state senator in 1859, and held many minor offices. He married Emeline, daughter of Daniel Burnham of Hampton. Their children were; Cornelia M., born in 1841, married Mason Bates; Sarah E., born in 1843, married Edward Burnham; Julia M., born in 1847.

Pearl L. Peck, born in Mansfield, April 4th, 1818, is a son of Reuben Peck and Laura Lyon, and grandson of Benjamin Peck. He represented the town in the legislature in 1850, was justice of the peace for 25 years, and has held many minor town offices. He married Fannie A. Brown of Mansfield, who died March 2d, 1887. Their children were: Dwight E., born December, 1841, enlisted 21st Connecticut volunteers, Company D, was in Burnside's expedition, was in battle at Falmouth, and died at Falmouth, Va., January 12th, 1863; Lucy E., born in 1841, married D. C. Crumb; Sarah L., born in 1843; Delia, born in 1846, married Alfred Y. Hebard; and Charles E., born in 1847, married Clara Russ in 1877, and has two children, Alfred H., born in 1878, and Susie E., born in 1882.

George A. Ross, born in 1816, is a son of John S., and grandson of Ebenezer Ross, who was born in Pomfret, near the wolf den, was an intimate friend of General Putnam, and a lieutenant in the revolutionary war. George Ross' mother was Lucy Lanphear, whose father was a soldier in the revolutionary war. Mr. Ross has been a successful farmer. He married for his first wife Mary A. Lawton. She died in 1849, leaving one son, Charles E. Ross, born in 1849. He married for his second wife Lavina Ide, in 1859.

Thomas T. Upton, born in Chaplin in 1816, is a son of Elisha Upton, who married Charlotte Apley. He was educated at the schools of Chaplin, and has been a farmer most of his life. Mr. Upton has been twice married, and has five children: Horace, Edwin, George, Frank and Harriet.

John K. Utley, born in 1815, was one of nine children, of whom three now live in Chaplin: John K., Lucius, born 1809, and Jane M., born 1826, married H. C. Storrs, and has one son. His father was James Utley, born in Hampton in 1781, came to Mansfield (now Chaplin) in 1815, and married Phebe, daughter of Captain John Clark, in 1808. John K. Utley married in 1843 Caro-

line Burnham, of Chaplin. She died in 1879. Lucius C. married Sarah Morey in 1830, and she died in 1864.

Edwin F. Weeks was born in Ashford, January 11th, 1818. He enlisted June 22d, 1862, in Company K, 14th Connecticut volunteers, was in the battle of Antietam, and received serious injury. He married Sarah A. Corey, and they have four children: Nellie L., Hattie R., Wallace G. and Andrew C.

PLAINFIELD.

Sessions L. Adams, born in 1854 in Canterbury, is a son of Jabez and Jane (Lester) Adams. He came to Plainfield to live with his uncle, "Major" Lester. He was educated at Wauregan district school, then at Danielsonville high school about two years and a half, under L. T. Brown, then at North Glastenbury, Conn., three years. He was selectman in 1882, and in June, 1885, he was appointed to the offices of town clerk and treasurer, to fill a vacancy, and in October following was elected to the same offices, which he has filled since that time. He was elected in 1888 as representative in the general assembly. "Major" Lester died in 1882, and since that time Mr. Adams has had charge of the farm, living with Mrs. Lester. He is a republican, and a member of the A. O. U. W., No. 22.

John H. Arthur, son of Michael Arthur, was born in 1862, in Woodstock. He was married in 1888 to Mary A., daughter of James S. Anderson, who lived in Plainfield about thirty years prior to his death, which occurred in February, 1887. He had two daughters, Mary A., now Mrs. John H. Arthur, and Martha J. Mr. Arthur is a democrat.

Edward E. Ashley, born in 1848, is a son of Gilbert and grandson of Luther Ashley. His mother was Frances E., daughter of Alfred A. Drown. Mr. Ashley came to Plainfield in 1876, and since 1878 has been clerk for J. P. Kingsley & Sons, and also express agent at Plainfield Junction. He was married in 1872 to Ellen Wood. She died in June, 1882, leaving two children, Susie F. and Alfred D. He was married again in 1884 to Frances Starkweather. He is a republican.

Isaac J. Baldwin is a son of Isaac, grandson of Rufus and great-grandson of Isaac, Sr., whose father, John, was a son of Benjamin Baldwin, who came to Canterbury in or about 1705. He was a son of Henry Baldwin. Mr. Baldwin has spent the most of his time for the past twenty years in the West. He was married in

1863 to Mary A., daughter of Roswell Ensworth. She died in 1868. He is a republican.

Charles E. Barber, born in 1848 in Exeter, is a son of George, grandson of Ellery, and great-grandson of Reynolds Barber. Mr. Barber is a tinsmith by trade, was clerk and tinsmith in the Central Hardware store about twelve years prior to 1880, and at that time bought the business of Mr. Dean. He has since enlarged the building, putting a hall on the second floor. He now keeps a full line of hardware and stoves. He has held some of the town offices as a republican. He is a member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. and A. M., and a member of Protection Lodge, No. 19, I. O. of O. F.

Lucius Battey was born in 1836 in Burrillville, R. I. He is a son of Levi, grandson of John and great-grandson of Benjamin Battey. His mother was Roxanna, daughter of Peleg Kelley. Mr. Battey lived in Rhode Island until he was sixteen years old. From there he went to Massachusetts, and in 1858 came to Moosup. He was a clerk for E. E. Hill for a time, then went into partnership with Mr. Hill in the store. In 1872 he sold out his interest to Mason W. Hale. In the same year he built the building here which he used as a store and residence from 1876 to 1886. In 1886 he sold the store business to E. E. Salisbury. He still owns the building and uses the second story as a residence. He was married in 1860 to Matilda Daggett, daughter of Rufus Daggett. They have two children—Elmer E., and Ida, who died in 1883, aged 13 years. Mr. Battey was in a store at Central Village four years from 1872 to 1876. He is a republican, has been selectman one year, and was postmaster at Moosup about ten years.

Emily Bennett was born in August, 1811, in Hanover, Conn. She is a daughter of Edward Morgan, and granddaughter of William Morgan. She was married in August, 1831, to Stephen Bennett. They had eight children: Stephen N., David C. (deceased), Olive E. (now Mrs. D. Herrick), and five others, deceased, whose names were: George C., Edwin D., Joseph L., Loren W. and Benjamin. Mrs. Bennett's husband was born in 1793, and died in June, 1878. He was in the war of 1812. His wife now draws a pension.

Stephen N. Bennett was born in 1832 in Plainfield. He is a son of Stephen, Jr., and grandson of Stephen, whose father John came from England, settled in Griswold, Conn., and

later went to Wilkesbarre, Pa. He owned a large part of the land where the city of Wilkesbarre now stands. Stephen was the youngest son of John. He served seven years in the war of the revolution. Stephen, Jr., was in the war of 1812, about eight months. Stephen N. now owns the farms of 250 acres where his father and grandfather lived. He has a trout pond of one acre, and is adding another acre. He has been justice of the peace two years and selectman three terms. He was in California the most of the time from 1852 to 1861. He is one of the directors of the Windham County National Bank. He built his trout pond in the spring of 1884, and the house where he now lives in 1885.

Caleb Bishop, born in 1837, in Lisbon, is a son of Elias, grandson of Caleb, and great-grandson of Reuben and Hannah Bishop. His mother was Lydia, daughter of Lee Hyde. Mr. Bishop is a farmer. He came to Plainfield from Lisbon in 1864, and bought what was originally the Woodward homestead in the south part of the town. He served in the war of the rebellion about one year in Company F., 26th Connecticut volunteers. He was married in 1864 to Mary E., daughter of Nelson Tyler. They have had four children: Mary J., who died aged 8 years, Nellie C., Fannie L., and William T. He has been selectman five years as a republican. He is a member of Jewett City church.

Andrew J. Bitgood was born in 1845 in Voluntown, Conn., son of Elisha Bitgood. He taught school some when a young man. He was brought up a farmer and in 1876 he began the lumber business. In 1878 he bought a portable saw mill, and does some custom work, but mostly manufacturing lumber for himself for market. He represented the town of Voluntown in the legislature in 1877-8, and held some of the town offices there. He was married in 1875 to Victoria, daughter of Benjamin M. Burdick. They have one daughter, Grace E. Mr. Bitgood is a democrat.

George R. Bliven, born in 1845, in Windham, Conn., is a son of John H., and grandson of Pardon Bliven. His mother was Emily A., daughter of Thomas Bingham. Mr. Bliven served in the war of the rebellion in Company H, 18th Connecticut volunteers, from June, 1862, to July, 1865. In 1865 he began to learn the blacksmith trade, and came to Central Village in 1876, where he has worked at his trade since that time. In 1884 he

built a residence on a farm of 65 acres which he bought in 1881. He was married in 1869 to Lydia M., daughter of Stanton Baldwin. They had two children: Mabel, and S. Ray, both deceased. They have an adopted son, Bernard D. Bliven. Mr. Bliven is a republican, a member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M., and of Kilburn Post, No. 77, G. A. R.

Benjamin R. Briggs was born in 1850, in Scituate, R. I. He is a son of Bradford T., whose father, James, was a son of Joseph Briggs, who was a revolutionary soldier. His mother is Celia (Ramsdale) Briggs. Mr. Briggs worked about six years at the harness maker's trade in Rhode Island, and in April, 1880, came to Plainfield to take charge of the town farm, which he did for two years. He built a residence in Plainfield village in 1884, and worked at his trade until 1888, when he bought a farm of 250 acres between Plainfield and Central Village, and has since been engaged in farming. He was married in 1871 to Nellie E., daughter of John R. and Hattie (Bitgood) Briggs. They have two children: Walter B. and Bertha R. He is a member of Ionic Lodge, No. 28, F. and A. M., of Rhode Island.

George W. Brown was born in 1830, in Rhode Island. He was a son of James and Abbie (Wilcox) Brown. He was a ship carpenter for several years prior to 1860, then was a farmer in Hopkinton, R. I., until 1874, when he bought the farm where his widow now lives, of 130 acres. He was married in 1859 to Martha J., daughter of Theophilus R. Bromley. Her mother was Mary Spalding, a daughter of Asa Spalding. They have had seven children: Everett E., who is married and lives in Virginia; Henry B., Lucy J., who died aged six years; Wendell P., Horace G., Mary A., and Fannie E. Mr. Brown was a member of Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist church and a republican.

Welcome H. Browning was born in 1834, in Griswold, Conn. His father, Ephraim, was a son of Hazard, and grandson of Ephraim Browning. His mother was Maria, daughter of Shepard Brown. Mr. Browning removed with his father from Griswold to Canterbury in 1837, and in 1857 they came to Plainfield, and bought a farm of 137 acres, and later they bought enough more to make 350 acres. His father died in 1876, aged 71 years, and since that time he has carried on the farming alone. He was married in 1877 to Ellen, daughter of Gilbert C. Robbins. He is a democrat and a member of the Packerville Baptist church.

Reverend Lucian Burleigh was born in Plainfield, in 1817. His father, Rinaldo, was a son of John and grandson of John Burleigh. He was educated at Plainfield Academy and Connecticut Literary Institution. He was ordained as an Evangelist, and was a teacher, preacher and temperance lecturer. His father, Rinaldo, was a graduate of Yale College, and was a teacher for many years. He was deacon of the Congregational church of Plainfield about forty-five years. He died in 1862, aged 88 years. Lucian Burleigh was married in 1843 to Elizabeth M., daughter of Stephen and Abigail Child. They had six children: Gertrude E., Harriet F., Caroline E., Lucian R., William B. and John C., all living but Caroline E. Mr. Burleigh died in 1884.

Joseph Butcher was born in England December 13th, 1803. He came to this country and married Polly, daughter of Aaron Wheeler. He was a farmer, excepting during a few years when he was in California. He was a member of Plainfield Union Baptist church. He died in 1879. His nephew, Joseph Butcher, was married in 1864 to Lydia M., daughter of George C. and Eliza M. (Hazard) Sheldon. Eliza M. was daughter of Thomas C. and Lydia Walker Hazard. George C. Sheldon was a son of Potter Sheldon. Lydia M. had one daughter by her marriage with Mr. Butcher—G. Annie. She married John J. Bennett in 1884.

Charles A. Byles, son of Josiah Byles, M. D., was born in 1842 in Clinton, Conn. Mr. Byles came to Plainfield about thirty-two years ago, and for the past twenty years has lived with his aunt, Mrs. Charles Hinckley. Charles Hinckley was the son of Vincent Hinckley. Charles built the house where Mr. Byles lives in 1857. He was married in 1839 to Lucy R. Avery. He died in 1875, aged 59 years. He was in the legislature one term and filled several of the town offices. He was a republican, a member of the Central Congregational church, and was deacon for several years. Mr. Byles was married in 1882 to Alice G., daughter of Henry C. Torrey. They have two sons—Frank A. and Charles H. He is a member of the Central Congregational church, and has been deacon of the same for four years. He is a republican.

Gurdon Cady, born in 1822 in Brooklyn, Conn., is a son of Elisha and grandson of Eliakim Cady. Mr. Cady is a farmer and has lived at this place since 1843. He has been selectman two terms and represented the town in the legislature in 1876.

He was married to Mary E., daughter of Charles and Fannie Whiting. They had one adopted daughter, Frances C., who died aged thirteen years. The wife died in December, 1887. Mr. Cady is a democrat, a member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M., and a member of Brooklyn Grange, No. 43, P. of H.

Fitch A. Carey was born in 1838 in Canterbury. He is a son of James B. Carey and grandson of James, whose father was one of the first settlers of Scotland, Conn. His mother was Mary, daughter of Fitch Adams. Mr. Carey was clerk in a store here for the Central Manufacturing Company about nine years prior to 1861. He went to Mexico and staid one year. From 1862 to 1875 he was a farmer in Canterbury. He represented the town in the legislature in 1868, and was one of the selectmen several years. In 1875 he removed to Plainfield, and since that time has been a small farmer and trader. In October, 1885, he was appointed postmaster at Central Village and fitted up a small store, where he keeps a variety stock. He was married in 1868 to Jennie, daughter of Archibald Fry. She died in 1879, leaving one daughter, Jennie F. He was married in 1883 to Eliza Walker. He is a democrat.

Lemuel W. Cleveland, born in 1841, is a son of Luther Cleveland, who was born in 1807 and died in 1853. His mother is Lydia C., daughter of Lemuel Woodward. Mr. Cleveland and his mother built the house where they now live in 1869. Mr. Cleveland is a republican. His father was a whig in his day. Luther Cleveland was married in 1834 to Lydia C. Woodward. They had three children: Frances (Mrs. J. D. Brown, of Hartford), born 1837; has two daughters; Lemuel W. and Julia W. (twins), born 1841.

George S. Collins, born in 1861 in Canterbury, is a son of Charles W. and Mary M. Collins. His grandfather was Thomas Collins. Mr. Collins came to Plainfield in 1871, and has since been employed in the Kennedy City Mills the most of the time. He has been superintendent since 1883. He was married in 1885 to Catharine, daughter of John and Annie Murdock. He is a democrat.

Henry G. Colvin, born in 1835 in Warwick, R. I., is a son of Henry and grandson of George Colvin. His mother is Mary A., daughter of Joseph Bennett. His father came from Rhode Island to Plainfield in 1835, and lived here until his death, which occurred in 1869. Mr. Colvin is a thrifty farmer, and has lived

at his present residence since 1864. He has a basement barn 40 by 97 feet. He was married in 1864 to Martha N. Robinson. She died in 1876, and he was married in 1879 to Mrs. Mary Burgess, sister of his first wife. He is a democrat.

James Craig, son of John Craig, was born in 1830 in Scotland. He is a machinist. He worked at his trade in the old country from 1843 to 1871, when he came to America, settling in Wauregan, where he has worked for the Wauregan Mills since that time. He was married in 1850 and has seven children: Helen, Annie, John, Thomas, Elizabeth, Jessie and Agnes. He is a republican, a member of Wauregan Congregational church, and a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M.

Martha G. Crandall was born in 1820. She is a daughter of Jeremiah, son of Aaron Starkweather. Her mother was Bridget Kinney. Martha G. was married in 1865 to Reverend Phineas Crandall, who was born in 1793. He was a Methodist preacher for about fifty years, and a member of the New England Conference. In 1866 he bought and took possession of the place where Mrs. Crandall now lives. He died November 5th, 1878. Mr. Crandall was in the war of 1812. He had one son, John, by a former marriage.

Henry Daggett, born in 1830 in Providence county, R. I., is a son of Rufus and grandson of Daniel Daggett. His mother is Thankful (Bowen) Daggett. Mr. Daggett was a mill operative about forty-four years, and ran a cotton dresser for thirty-five years. Since 1886 he has been a farmer. He was married in 1853 to Ruth Battey, a sister of Lucius Battey, mentioned above. They have one son living, Frank W. They lost a son and daughter, John E. and Lelia F. He is a member of the Moosup Methodist Episcopal church, and a member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M.

George Davis, born in 1828 in Plainfield, is a son of Obed and grandson of David Davis. His mother was Robey, daughter of John Brown. Mr. Davis is a farmer. He sold milk in Wauregan about twenty-two years. He was married in 1856 to Emily, daughter of Herbert W. Parkis, son of Elias, son of Isaac Parkis. Their five children are: Ella M., George Herbert, Sarah E., Ida E. and Albert I., who died aged three years. George Herbert was married in 1885, to Grace, daughter of Perry G. Tripp.

George B. Dawley was born in 1856 in Griswold, Conn. His father George, was a son of Isaac, and grandson of Michael

Dawley. Mr. Dawley is a farmer and owns and occupies the farm where his father lived from 1856 until 1882. He died in 1886, and since that time the son has owned the farm. He has been selectman since 1887 as a democrat. He was married in 1877 to Annie, daughter of John Briggs. They have three children—Frank A., George A. and Ida V.

William Dawley was born in 1817 in Exeter, R. I. He is a son of William, and grandson of Nathan, whose father John Dawley came from Ireland to what was called the "Pettaquams-cutt Purchase" in Washington county, R. I., and later to what is now Exeter, R. I. Mr. Dawley is a farmer. He came from Rhode Island to the place where he now lives in 1856. He has a four acre cranberry meadow. He has been selectman three terms, and has held other town offices. He was married in 1842 to Mary A., daughter of Michael Dawley, son of Oliver, son of Michael, son of John, same as above. They have one son, John W., who was married in 1885 to Jennie A., daughter of Joshua S. Kennedy, and has one son, William K. Dawley.

John R. Dean was born in 1805 and died in 1870. He was a son of Christopher, whose father James, was a son of John Dean, who owned the farm which is still in the Dean family. John R. was married in 1829 to Lucy L. Carpenter. They had two sons, James C. and John, who now live on the homestead. James C. was born in 1830, and was married in 1866 to Catharine E. Kinne. She died in 1875, leaving one daughter. Mr. Dean is a farmer. He is a member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M. John Dean was born in 1832, and was married in 1863 to Julia, daughter of George Bliven. They have one son, George C. He is a farmer and owns the homestead.

Joseph A. Deane was born in 1816 in Taunton, Mass. He is a son of Abijah, whose father Nathaniel, was a son of Ebenezer, a son of John, whose father John, was a son of John Dean, who came to this country in 1637 from England. His mother Mary, was a daughter of Joseph Deane. Mr. Deane came to Plainfield in 1835 and has resided here since that time. He has been engaged in railroad work for about forty years, mostly bridge building. Since 1876 he has been an insurance agent, representing the Windham County Mutual and others. He was married in 1838 to Ann M. Tyler. She died leaving four children: Annie T., Albert, Mary E., and Edward. He was married again to Catharine Hall, who died in 1887. Mr.

Deane has been constable, justice, and notary public. He is a republican.

George M. Denison was born in 1820 and married Lucinda Grant. They have one son and one daughter. George M. Denison has been a top roller coverer for several years. His son Albert G. has worked at that business for several years with his father. In 1888 they opened a furniture and undertaking establishment at Moosup, under the firm name of George M. Denison & Son. Albert G. was married in 1887, to Clara H., daughter of Albert Tillinghast. The family are members of of Plainfield Union Baptist church.

Olney Dodge, born in 1824, in Rhode Island, is a son of Barney Dodge. His mother is Mary, daughter of Joab and Mary Mann. Mr. Dodge came to Plainfield in 1876 and bought a small farm a little south of Plainfield street, and since that time has been a farmer. He was in California from 1849 to 1852. He was married in July, 1854, to Susan H., daughter of William and Martha (Gallup) Shepard. William was a son of Simon and Elizabeth (Moore) Shepard. Mr. and Mrs. Dodge have four children: Susan E. (Mrs. D. E. Earle), Mary A. (Mrs. Frank H. Tillinghast), John G. and Charles O. Mr. Dodge is a republican.

James Doyle, son of Michael Doyle, was born in 1849 in Ireland and came to this country in 1867. He bought the farm of 150 acres where he now lives in 1878. He was married in 1867 to Mary, daughter of Jeremiah Downing. They have seven children: John T., James, Mary, Kate, Rosie, Michael, and Julia A. He is a democrat and a member of the Moosup Catholic church.

Nancy Dunlap is a daughter of John Medbury, and granddaughter of Edward Medbury. She was married in 1839 to George Dunlap, who was born in 1815, and died in 1873. He was station agent at Moosup about thirty years, and town clerk of Plainfield several years. They had one daughter, Sarah J. (Mrs. Andrew Potter). Mr. Dunlap was a democrat.

John C. Edmonds, born in 1812, in Griswold, Conn., is a son of Samuel S., and grandson of Andrew Edmonds. His mother was Betsey, daughter of John Cogswell. He was educated in the district and select schools of Griswold, and has taught school about twenty winters. He came to this town in 1861, and bought the place where he now lives. He has been selectman four

years. He was married in March, 1844, to Eliza, daughter of William Kinne. They have two adopted sqns, David C. Kinne and Edwin Edmonds. Mr. Edmonds is a republican. He and his wife are members of the First Congregational church of Canterbury.

Roswell Ensworth was born in 1817 in Plainfield. His father Roswell, was a son of Jesse, and grandson of William, whose father Joseph, was the son of Tixhall Ensworth. His mother was Mary, daughter of Deacon David Knight. Mr. Ensworth was educated in district schools and in the Plainfield Academy. He has taught school about thirty years. Since March, 1876, he has been bookkeeper and secretary for the Robinson Fowler Foundry Company. He has been on the school board several years, and has held other town offices. He was a member of the legislature one term, 1880-81. He was married in 1844 to Mary A., daughter of Prentice Lewis. They had one daughter, Mary A. (Mrs. I. J. Baldwin), who died in 1869, and one son, George W., who died aged four years. Mr. Ensworth is a member and trustee of the First Congregational church of Plainfield, a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., and Providence Chapter, No. 1. He is a republican.

Reverend Silenus H. Fellows was born in 1827 in Greene county, N. Y., and is a son of Reverend Linus H. Fellows of Connecticut. He was educated at Plainfield Academy, and taught school when a young man. He was licensed to preach in 1858, and in April, 1859, was ordained as a preacher. He has been pastor of the Congregational church of Wauregan since 1859. He was married in 1853 to Sylvia D. Newell. They have two daughters: Ida A., who is now Mrs. H. F. Lewis of Chicago, Ill., and Carrie L.

John S. French, born in 1819 in Plainfield, is a son of Nathaniel and grandson of John French. His mother was Rachel (Spaulding) French. Nathaniel French was a farmer and carpenter. He was in the legislature one year, was town clerk and treasurer several years and held other of the town offices. He came to the farm where John S. now lives in about 1814. John S. French is a farmer, and has always lived at the old homestead where he was born. He taught school about thirty terms when a young man. He was in the legislature in 1848 and again in 1879, was town clerk and treasurer eleven years, has been on the board of education about forty-five years, and has held

other town offices as a republican. He was married in 1839 to Jane H. Lathrop. They have four children: Henry H., John F., Ella J. (Mrs. George O. Gadbois) and Ernest L., who is married and lives with his father. John F. was in the war of the rebellion three years.

Benjamin D. Gallup, born in 1828 in Sterling, Conn., is a son of John and grandson of Benjamin Gallup. His mother, Orra, was a daughter of Benjamin Dow. Mr. Gallup is a farmer. He was married in 1856 to Sarah L., daughter of John and Mary (Wilcox) Tanner. They have three children: Mary (Mrs. Justin L. Johnson), Irving B. and Myrtie J.

John R. Gallup was born in 1827 in Sterling, Conn. He is a son of Samuel, whose father, Nathaniel, was a son of John Gallup. His mother was Maria, daughter of Elisha Parks. Mr. Gallup is a farmer. He came from Sterling and bought the farm of 136 acres where he now lives. The house where he lives was built about 1810, by Samuel Frink. He was married in 1851 to Amarilla, daughter of Saxon Frink, a son of Samuel Frink. They have three children: Luetta F., Herbert A. and Ida M.

Mary A. Gardner is a daughter of John Gardner and granddaughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Sweet) Gardner, of Rhode Island. Her mother was Mary, daughter of Isaac and Mary (Mason) Parkis. John Gardner was a farmer and died in 1859. The house where Miss Gardner lives was built by Isaac Parkis in 1816. She is one of three daughters, two of whom died in infancy. Her parents adopted a daughter, Louisa, who is now Mrs. Simon Shepard.

John C. Gibson, born in 1832 in Sterling, Conn., is a son of Ira and grandson of Campbell Gibson. Mr. Gibson has been overseer of mule spinning about thirty-four years. He has been at Moosup and vicinity about forty years, working at cotton and woolen manufacturing. He was married in 1854 to Almira, daughter of Nathan B. and Lois (Bates) Holly. They have two sons—Albert I. and George F.

Jonathan Greene, born in 1818 in West Greenwich, R. I., is a son of Jeremiah and grandson of Abel Greene. His mother was Freelove Hopkins. Mr. Greene has a farm of 200 acres about one mile east of Plainfield village, where he lived from 1869 to 1886, when he came to Plainfield and bought the Judge Gallup farm, where he now lives. He was married in 1869 to Lettie Brown. They have four children: Carrie M., Frank B., Gracie A. and Harrie E. Mr. Greene is a democrat.

Daniel H. Grover was born in 1845 in Killingly. He is a son of Jonathan Grover, who was in the war of 1812. The latter was a son of Stephen, who was a revolutionary soldier and son of Zephaniah Grover. His mother was Lovice, daughter of Alvin Kingsley. Mr. Grover was educated at Plainfield Academy, and has taught school about twenty years. In 1883 he came to Moosup, and since that time has been bookkeeper for merchants here. He was married in 1880 to Ellen H., daughter of Benjamin Phillips and granddaughter of Nicholas Phillips. They have one son, Harry L. Mr. Grover is a member of Plainfield Union Baptist church. He is a republican and a member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M.

Elisha P. Hale, born in 1822 in Plainfield, is a son of Stephen and Hannah (Potter) Hale. His grandparents were Job and Margaret (Mason) Hale. Job was born in 1745, and bought the farm where Mr. Hale now lives in 1804, and it has been in the family since that time. Elisha P. was born in the house where he now lives. He has been a farmer for half a century, but for the last few years has lived retired. He was a member of the legislature in 1859, and again in 1874, and has held town offices. He is a republican. He was married in 1852 to Abbie A., daughter of Daniel and Deborah (Wood) Hill. She was a granddaughter of Edward Hill.

Mason W. Hale, born in 1817, in Plainfield, is a son of Stephen and Hannah (Potter) Hale. In 1839 he went to Phenix, R. I., and had charge of the weaving in a mill there about ten years, then he was superintendent of the mill five years. In 1854 he went to Bowen's Hill, in Coventry, R. I., where he worked at farming about twelve years. In 1867 he returned to the town of Plainfield. He was married in 1841 to Nancy Bowen. She died in 1854, and he married her sister, who lived about twelve years. In 1873 he married Betsey E. Moredock. He has one daughter by his first wife: Mary Emma. He represented the town of Coventry in the Rhode Island legislature, and has been selectman in this town about three years. He is a republican and a member of Plainfield Union Baptist church.

Edward P. Hall was born in 1812 in Plainfield. His father, William, was a son of Stephen and grandson of Stephen Hall, who was born in 1719 and died in 1818. His mother was Ruth, daughter of David Davis. Mr. Hall is a farmer. In 1854 he built a house on Plainfield street, and in 1877 he built a tasty lit-

the residence near by for his own use. He was married in 1852 to Elizabeth R., daughter of Joshua B. and Hannah (Rathbon) Comstock.

Jared Hall was born in 1834 in Plainfield. He is a son of Ebenezer, son of William, son of John, son of Samuel Hall. Mr. Hall devoted his time for several years to woolen manufacturing. In 1874 he bought the place where he now lives, and since that time has turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. He was married in 1854 to Susan S. Benson. They had five children: James E., Susan J., Emory J., Dora M. and Alvah. The three last mentioned are deceased. Mr. Hall is a member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M.

Stephen Hall, son of Captain William Hall, was born in 1816, and died in 1887. He was educated at Plainfield Academy, and later in a theological school in Maine, and in a short time in Providence. He taught district and select schools for many years. He came to Moosup and built a school house, where he kept a select school for several years. He also built the residence where the family now live. He was married to Mary, daughter of John and Sophia Westcott. They had eight children: Charles M., Eugene A., George A., Ella J., Frank W., Fred. M., Lizzie E. (deceased), and Walter C. Mr. Hall was a member of the Congregational church.

William F. Hall was born in 1820 in Plainfield. He is a son of William, and grandson of Stephen, whose father, Stephen Hall, died in April, 1818, aged 99 years. His mother was Ruth, daughter of David Davis. Mr. Hall is a farmer. He lived in Slatersville about 28 years, and came to the farm where he now lives in 1874. He has been selectman three terms as a republican. He was married in 1852 to Abbie E., daughter of William Shepard, he a son of Simon, he a son of Simon Shepard. They have three children: William H., Ruth A. and Edward. Mr. Hall is a member of Plainfield Ecclesiastical society.

Hiram Harris, son of Edwin Harris, was born in 1834 in Brooklyn, Conn. His mother was Rachel Harris. Mr. Harris devoted about twenty years of his life to cotton manufacturing, and was overseer about eleven years of that time. In 1866 he bought the mill property in the northeastern part of this town, and since that time he has run a grist, saw, shingle and cider mill. He was married in 1856 to Cynthia E. Lyon. They have

four children: Eugene A., Agnes M. (Mrs. Charles Ayer), Winifred Estella and Florence Ellen. Mr. Harris is a republican.

Alfred T. Hill was born in 1856 in Plainfield. His father, Harry, was a son of Daniel and grandson of Edward Hill. His mother is Ruth, daughter of Samuel and Freeloove (Potter) Miller. Prior to 1882 Mr. Hill was a farmer. In the fall of that year he bought a house and lot at Almyville. He was clerk in the Almyville store about four years prior to October 1st, 1887, when he formed a partnership with Alfred H. Hyde, firm of Hill & Hyde, at Moosup. The firm still runs under that name. He was married in 1879 to Clara M., daughter of Edgar and Maria Amsbury. They have one daughter, Abbie M. Mr. Hill is a republican.

Alexander Hill, born in 1821 in Plainfield, is a son of Daniel, and grandson of Edward Hill. His mother was Deborah (Wood) Hill. Mr. Hill was a farmer in the northern part of the town until 1888. In the spring of that year he moved to Moosup where he is living retired. He was married in 1843 to Ruth, daughter of Parker Hill, of Sterling, Conn. They have four children: Mercy E. (Mrs. Joshua Hill), Catherine (Mrs. Henry Knight), Ann M. and Leroy, who died aged 19 years. He is a member of Plainfield Union Baptist church.

Orrin A. Hill, born in 1836 in Plainfield, is a son of Jonathan, and grandson of Jonathan Hill. His mother was Orra Tyler. Mr. Hill learned the trade of house carpenter, and after following the trade for several years, he turned his attention to farming. In 1871 he bought the farm where he now lives. The place was owned by the Union Mill Company for a good many years. He was married in 1857 to Nancy, daughter of Aaron and Thankful (Sheffield) Belden. They have three children: Hattie E., Leroy A. and George E. Mr. Hill is a democrat.

Ruth M. Hill was born in 1818 in Plainfield, and is a daughter of Samuel and Freeloove (Potter) Miller. Her grandparents were James and Louise (Parkis) Miller. She was married in 1838 to Harry Hill, son of Daniel and grandson of Edward Hill. Mr. Hill was a farmer, having lived at this place since 1838. He was born in 1815 and died in 1873. They had three children: Charles W., Freeloove Anna (Mrs. Charles A. Sanderson) and Alfred T. Mr. Sanderson is a farmer, and he with his family (wife and two children) live on the farm with Mrs. Hill.

Alfred H. Hyde, born in 1858 in Plainfield, is a son of William I., and grandson of Ira Hyde. His mother is Sarah M. (Potter) Hyde. Mr. Hyde, in company with Alfred T. Hill, under the firm name of Hill & Hyde, bought the meat business at Moosup of G. P. Dorrance in October, 1887. In April following the market was enlarged and now they have three rooms, two for meat and canned goods, and one for an office. They have two wagons on the road. They handle about one ton of beef per week, and other meats and canned goods in proportion. Mr. Hyde is a republican, and a member of Plainfield Union Baptist church.

John J. Kelley was born in 1831 in South Newmarket, N. H. His father Benjamin, was a son of Benjamin, and grandson of Joseph, whose father Thomas came from Dublin, Ireland, in 1727 to Dover, N. H. His mother was Sarah (Swan) Kelley. Mr. Kelley was in the war of the rebellion in Company C, Third Massachusetts Cavalry, from 1862 to 1864. He was in mercantile business in Boston from 1859 to 1869, excepting the two years he was in the war. From 1869 to 1886 he was overseer and superintendent of woolen and cotton mills. In 1886 he came from Salem to this town and bought a farm of 75 acres, and since that time has been a farmer. He was married in 1852 to Mary Cobb. She died in 1859, leaving one son, George J. He was married in 1861, to Maria, daughter of Paul Vinal. He is a member of Eastern Star Lodge, No. 44, F. & A. M., of Willimantic, and of Trinity Chapter No. 9.

Horace Kennedy, born in 1844 in Plainfield, is a son of Robert, and grandson of Robert Kennedy. His mother is Clarissa, daughter of Noah and Elizabeth (Gallup) Briggs. Noah was a son of William and Elizabeth (Gallup) Briggs. Mr. Kennedy worked in a saw and grist mill at Central Village several years. He came to Moosup in 1878 and bought a farm, which he has since operated. He was married in May, 1873, to Sarah Rouse, who died the spring following. He was married in December, 1875, to Mary Jane Wells. They have two sons—Frederick A., and Frank E. Mr. Kennedy is a republican.

Joshua S. Kennedy, born in 1823 in Plainfield, is a son of Joshua, and grandson of Alexander Kennedy. His mother was Clarissa, daughter of Joshua Hall. Mr. Kennedy is a farmer, occupying the homestead where his father settled about 1811 and lived till his death, which occurred in 1856. He has been

selectman several years, and has filled other town offices. He was married in 1844 to Joanna West. They had four children: Charles E., Frank P., Eliza J. and Eva; the three last mentioned are deceased. The wife died in 1855. He was married in 1861 to Abbie E. Adams. They have one daughter, Jennie A., now Mrs. John W. Dawley. Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy are members of Plainfield Union Baptist church.

William H. Kenyon, born in 1849 in Charlestown, R. I., is a son of Godfrey A. and grandson of Captain John Kenyon. His mother was Minerva C., daughter of Jarvis Kenyon. Mr. Kenyon is a carpenter by trade. He came to Moosup in 1879 and worked at his trade until 1887. In March of that year he established a partnership with A. P. Tabor (firm of Tabor & Kenyon) and bought the stock of Aldrich & Milner, and ran what had before been the Company store of Almyville. He was married in 1883 to Lucy J., daughter of Mowrey B. Spalding. They have one son, Harold G. He is a member of Charity Lodge, No. 23, F. & A. M., and also a member of Mechanics' Lodge, No. 14, I. O. of O. F., both of Washington county, Rhode Island.

John P. Kingsley, born in 1823 in Canterbury, Conn., is a son of John and grandson of Hezekiah Kingsley, who was a captain in the war of the revolution. His mother, Mary, was a daughter of Joseph Raymond. Mr. Kingsley was educated at Plainfield Academy, and at Worcester one year. He was a farmer in Norwich about fifteen years. From there he went to Canterbury in 1869, and until 1887 kept a general store there. In 1875 the firm of J. P. Kingsley & Sons was established, and the business is still carried on at Plainfield Junction. In 1887 Mr. Kingsley came to Plainfield where he now resides. He was married in 1844 to Clarissa Mathewson, who died in 1849, leaving one son, Milton J. He was married again to Elizabeth Scofield. They have four children: Walter, Emma, Carrie and Lizzie. In Canterbury Mr. Kingsley was judge of probate and town treasurer several years, and a member of the legislature two terms. He was postmaster about sixteen years. He is a republican.

Milton J. Kingsley was born in 1849 in Norwich, Conn. His father, John P. Kingsley, is a son of John and grandson of Hezekiah Kingsley. His mother was Clarissa, daughter of George Mathewson. He was educated at Norwich. In September, 1871, he started a store at Plainfield Junction, and in 1875 the firm of J. P. Kingsley & Sons (John P., Milton J. and Walter Kingsley)

was established, and has been run under that name since that time. Mr. Kingsley was married in 1877 to Hattie L., daughter of Deacon William B. Ames, of Plainfield. They have one daughter, Nettie M. Mr. Kingsley is a republican.

Jason P. Lathrop, son of Jason Lathrop, was born in 1849 in Griswold, Conn. His mother is Susan, daughter of Rowland Peckham. Mr. Lathrop was six years with the Smith Granite Company, of Westerly, prior to 1887. In the spring of that year he came to Central Village, where he has been engaged in farming. He was married in 1883 to Maggie H., daughter of Walter and Hannah Palmer, of Plainfield. They have one daughter, Susie H. Mr. Lathrop is a democrat.

Charles H. Lewis, born in 1843 in Griswold, Conn., is a son of Frank C. and Maria M. (Pierce) Lewis. His mother is a daughter of James Pierce, he a son of Nathaniel, and he a son of John Pierce. Mr. Lewis was in the war of the rebellion for about fourteen months, in Company H, 18th Connecticut volunteers, and was a prisoner of war in Libby and Belle Island about two months. In 1880 he went to Minnesota and was interested in a store there about eighteen months. In March, 1883, he came to Central Village, and bought the drug business of A. Walker, and has carried on the business there since that time. He was married in 1880 to Cora M. Shaw. They have one son, Henry Elmer. Mr. Lewis is a republican, and a member of Sedgewick Post, No. 1, G. A. R.

Parley W. Lewis was born in 1852 in Canterbury. He is a son of T. A. Lewis, whose father was Parley Lewis. His mother is Frances M., daughter of William Adams. Mr. Lewis came to this town in 1870. In 1875 he began work in the Plainfield station, and since October, 1885, has been station agent. He married Louisa A., daughter of Charles H. Johnson, and has three children: Alice L., Wilfred P. and Harold J. He is a republican.

Moses A. Linnell was born in 1845 in Providence, R. I. His father Moses, was a son of John, and grandson of Samuel Linnell. His mother was Martha H., daughter of William Hall. Mr. Linnell's father enlisted in 1861 in the United States service, and died in the same year of fever while on his way to the front. Mr. Linnell learned the watchmaker and jeweler's trade in 1868. He was for two years engaged in top roller covering in North Grosvenor Dale, Conn. Afterward he kept a clothing

store and jeweler's store at same place until 1881, when he removed the business to Moosup, where he has been since that time. He was married in 1873 to Laura, daughter of Lyman S. Botham, of East Thompson, Conn. They had one daughter, Eva, who died in infancy. Mr. Linnell is a member of Putnam Lodge, No. 46, F. & A. M.

William J. S. Lock, born in 1823 in Richmond, R. I., is a son of Joshua R. and Waitey (Sheldon) Lock. Mr. Lock was a farmer in Richmond, R. I., until 1863, then removed to Packerville, where he superintended the farm of E. A. Packer for seven years, then he removed to Plainfield Junction, where he lived until 1877, when he came to the farm where he now lives. He has held some of the town offices, and is a republican. He was married in 1843 to Catharine, daughter of Henry Steadman. They have one daughter, Almira C. They lost three sons: Henry J. N., William F. and William E. Almira C. is now Mrs. B. A. Northup. She has five children: Hattie, William E., Henry J., Andrew B. and Bessie E. Mr. Lock is a member of the Plainfield Union Baptist church. His wife, daughter and three grandsons are members of the same church.

Gorge Loring, son of George and Lucy (Lester) Loring, was born in 1830 in New London county. He is a tinsmith by trade. He kept a tin, wood and glass store at Central Village about seventeen years. He sold the business several years ago, and built the residence where he now lives in 1864. He has been selectman several years, chairman of the board four years, and was elected to the general assembly in 1879. He has three children living: William L., Henry K. and Robert H. He is a republican.

Lucius B. Morgan was born in 1839 in Canterbury. His father, Elisha A., was a son of Lott, and grandson of Isaac, who came to Plainfield and settled on the farm where Mr. Morgan now lives. The farm has not been out of the family since that time. Mr. Morgan is a farmer. He is on the board of selectmen for the third term as a republican. Elisha A. was selectman several times. He was married in March, 1834, to Philura A., daughter of Lucius and Ann (Lamb) Bacon, and a granddaughter of Samuel, a son of Joseph, and he a son of John Bacon, who was born in England in 1683. They had two children, Martha A. and Lucius B., who now live with their mother on the homestead. Elisha A. was born in 1805, and died in 1879.

Thomas E. Main was born in 1848 in North Stonington, Conn. He is a son of Sands B., whose father David, was a son of Peter Main. His mother was Eliza C. (Perry) Main. His grandmother was Dorcas (Palmer) Main. Mr. Main has been a mill operative since he was 18 years of age. He came to Almyville in November, 1880, where he has been overseer of weaving. He was married in 1869 to Julia E., daughter of James and Sarah Babcock. They have three children: James O., Lewis S. and Howard E. He is a member of Moosup Methodist Episcopal church, and has been superintendent of the Sunday school about seven years. He is a member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M., and a republican.

Nathaniel Medbury, born in 1829 in Plainfield, was a son of Nathaniel, and grandson of Nathaniel Medbury. Mr. Medbury came to Wauregan in 1854 as a mill operative, and a few years later was made overseer of weaving, and continued in that position until his death, in 1887. He was a democrat in politics, and a member of the Congregational church. He was married in 1854 to Susan F., daughter of Sabin L. and Maria (Phillips) Hawkins. Her grandfather was George Hawkins. They had two children, Frank W. and Hattie A., who is now Mrs. Frank S. Downer. Mr. Downer is an operative at Wauregan.

Frank Miller was born in 1857 in Plainfield. He is a son of James and Susan (Titus) Miller, and a grandson of Samuel and Freelove (Potter) Miller. Mr. Miller was for six years in a grocery store at Putnam. He came back to the homestead in 1881, and since that time has been a farmer. The farm has been in the Miller family for several generations. He was married in 1881 to Ada E. Medbury, and has one son, Clyde S.

Samuel D. Millett, born in 1808, was a son of Samuel and Rachel (Douglass) Millett. He was a mill operative in his younger days, and in 1854 came to the place where his widow now lives, and interested himself in agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1884. He was in the legislature one term, and was an active member of the Methodist church of Moosup. He was married in 1833 to Sarah A., daughter of Nathan and Elizabeth (Medbury) Carpenter. They had one son, Edward M., who was married in 1856 to D. Ann Kinney. They had two daughters: Ella J. and Lillie E. Edward M. was an operative in woolen mills for several years prior to his death, which occurred in 1875. He was an active member of the Moos-

up Methodist Episcopal church. The farm where the two widows now live was owned by Edward Medbury from 1801 until his death and then by his son Edward until his death, when it fell to Samuel D. Millett.

Henry S. Newton was born in 1817 in Voluntown, Conn. He is a son of Israel and Nancy Newton and grandson of Matthew Newton, who came from England to this country when a boy, with his father, Matthew Newton. Mr. Newton is a farmer. He has lived on the farm where he now resides since 1839. He was married in 1837 and had eight children: Henry F., Charles S., John M., Alice J., Horace L., Annie L., Susie B. and Otis P. His wife died in 1883. Charles S. was in the war of the rebellion in Company G, 11th Connecticut volunteers, and died August 31st, 1862. Henry F. was in Company B, 21st Connecticut Volunteers, from August, 1862, to May, 1864. He is now a member of Kilburn Post, No. 77, G. A. R., also a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M. He represented the town in the legislature in 1882 as a republican.

Matthew S. Nichols, son of Luke Nichols, was born in 1824 in Westerly, R. I. He was educated at district schools and later in a select school. He learned the trade of a machinist, working about five years. He then went to California, returning in 1851, and in 1865 went to Norwich, where he studied dentistry one year, coming to Central Village in 1866, where he has since practiced. He is the originator and manufacturer of "Nichols' Carbolic Dentifrice," and also a similar preparation called "Coral Sea Foam." He was married May 18th, 1870, to Mary E., daughter of Kimball Kennedy. They have one son, Walter K. Doctor Nichols is a republican, a member of Central Congregational church and a member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M.

George H. Palmer was born in September, 1831. He is a son of Harry Palmer, who was the seventh generation from Walter Palmer, who was born in England in 1598, and came to New England in 1629. His mother was Caroline E., daughter of Samuel Dorrance. Mr. Palmer is a farmer, living on the farm where the family has lived for nearly one hundred years. The house where he now lives was built about 1800. There have been three generations of the family born in it. He was married in 1854 to Prudence L. Phillips. She died in 1868, leaving two children--Harriet D. and Edward G. He is a republican.

Samuel Palmer was born in 1826 in Plainfield. He is a son of Samuel, whose father was Walter, and he a son of Walter, and he a son of Walter, whose father was Walter, who was a son of Gershom, and he a son of Walter. His mother was Lydia R., daughter of Colonel Abraham Ormsbee. Mr. Palmer was in a woolen factory about five years, and since that time has been a farmer. He has always lived in Plainfield. Since 1866 he has lived on the Shepard homestead. He was married in 1850 to Lucy G. Shepard. They have one son—Samuel F. His wife is a daughter of William, he a son of Simon, and he a son of Simon Shepard. Her mother was Martha Gallup, whose father was Simon Gallup.

Walter Palmer was born in 1824 in Plainfield. His father, Samuel, was a son of Walter and grandson of Walter, who was the first of the family to settle in this town. His father, Walter, was a son of Walter and grandson of Gershom, who was a son of Walter Palmer, who was born in 1598 and died in 1662. He came from Nottinghamshire, England, to Charlestown, Mass., in 1629. Mr. Palmer's mother was Lydia R., daughter of Abraham Ormsbee. Mr. Palmer is a farmer and cattle dealer. He represented the town in the house of representatives in 1878, and has been selectman and judge of probate. He was married in 1848 to Hannah, daughter of Captain William Shepard. They have three children: Walter L., Maggie H. (Mrs. Jason P. Lathrop) and Martha E.

Peleg M. Peckham was born in 1822 in Hopkinton, R. I. He is a son of Reverend Peleg Peckham, who was pastor of the Sterling Hill church for about forty years, and was a son of Judge Samuel Peckham. His mother was a daughter of Benjamin Burdick. Mr. Peckham learned the carriage maker's trade when a young man. He has been a railroad car builder for the past forty years, with the Stonington Railroad Company. He was foreman of the shop about thirty-five years. He came to Moosup in 1886 and bought a house and lot, and since that time has been living a retired life. He was married in 1844 to Rachel E. Gallup. She died in 1862, leaving one son, Albert M., who died in 1883. He was married again in 1863 to Emeline Gallup. He is a member of the Plainfield Union Baptist church and a republican. He was for several years a member of the Franklin Lyceum of Providence.

Perry S. Phillips was born in 1826 in Sterling, Conn. He is a son of Palmer G., who was in the war of 1812, he a son of Reverend Simon Phillips, whose father came from Scotland to Rhode Island. His mother was Betsey Farnum. Mr. Phillips has been a mill operative nearly all his life. He has been overseer of weaving for about forty years. He was three years at Brooklyn, Conn., and ran the "Mont Lake" house there from 1875 to 1878. He has been on the board of selectmen about ten years, at different times. He is a republican. He was married in 1850 to Susan E. Wells. They had one son, Carlton M., who died of heart disease in 1883. Mr. Phillips is a member of the Ecclesiastical Society of the Baptist church, and was president of the society several years. He is a member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M., also a member of the Chapter.

Havilah M. Prior, born in 1829, is a son of John, and grandson of Joseph Prior. His mother was Ruth, daughter of Edward Medbury. Mr. Prior is a machinist, having worked at that trade from 1851 until 1879, since which time he has been a farmer. He has been a member of the school committee and held some other town offices. He represented the town in the legislature in 1882. He was married in 1856 to Mary S. Potter. She died in 1859, leaving one daughter, Ruth J., who is now Mrs. James W. Thornly. He was married again in 1860 to Jane, daughter of Eben Phillips, who was a son of Nicholas Phillips. They have one son, John E., who was married in 1888 to Grace Putnam.

Samuel P. Robinson, born in 1808 in Canterbury, is a son of Samuel, and grandson of Josiah Robinson. His mother was Abigail Glover. Mr. Robinson is a carriage maker by trade. In 1857 he started an iron foundry company in Canterbury, firm name of Robinson & Fowler, and in 1858 they took in other partners and called the firm Robinson, Fowler & Co. In 1867 they started another foundry at Plainfield Junction, and in 1870 the two were consolidated. He came to Plainfield to live in 1870. He was married in 1844 to Helen L., daughter of Joseph Goodwin. They have two children: Ella, who died, and Edward G., who was married in 1870 to Nellie S. Clark. They have two daughters. Mr. Robinson was in some of the town offices of Canterbury as a republican.

George A. Rouse, born in 1841 in Coventry, R. I., is a son of James, and grandson of James Rouse. His mother is Harriet

M. Mathewson. Mr. Rouse enlisted in September, 1861, in Company F, Eighth Connecticut infantry as a private. September 17th, 1862, he was appointed sergeant, and September 29th, 1864, was promoted to orderly sergeant. He was discharged September 11th, 1865. He was wounded at Fort Harrison September 29th, 1864, and lost his left leg in consequence. He began work at the harness maker's trade in 1867, and has since made that his business. He has held town offices, and in 1875 represented the town in the legislature as a democrat. He was married in 1870 to Sarah M., daughter of Calvin Pike. They have one daughter, Ella E. He is now a republican.

William Roney, son of Thomas Roney, was born in Ireland in 1832, and died in Moosup in 1874. He came to America when a boy, was a farmer in Sterling about twenty years, and in 1870 came to Moosup and bought the farm where the family now live. He was married in 1855 to Mary, daughter of John Jackson. They had six children: Ida A. (Mrs. Harlow Ladd), Frederick, Alfred, John, William and one that died, named Jennie. Mr. Roney was a democrat.

John D. Rood was born in 1821 in Killingly, Conn. He is a son of Cyrus, whose father Isaac, was a son of Jacob Rood. His mother was Ruth, daughter of Joshua Card. Mr. Rood is a carpenter by trade, but being a natural mechanic has not been entirely confined to the trade. The last twenty years he has paid some attention to agricultural pursuits. He represented the town in the legislature in 1870. He has been on the board of selectmen several terms, and has filled other town offices as a republican. He has been married three times: first to Rebecca Eaton, second to Lydia C. Wells and last to Fannie Baker. There have been two children by each marriage. He is a charter member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M., and has been master of the order five years. He is a member of the Columbia Commandery, No. 4, of Norwich.

Joseph Rood, born in 1834 in Plainfield, is a son of Solomon and Mercy (Matteson) Rood, and grandson of Joseph Rood. He lived in Plainfield until 1870, and since that time has lived just south of the town line in Griswold. He has about 1,000 acres of land. While in Plainfield he was selectman several years. In Griswold he has been selectman and justice several terms, and represented the town in the legislature in 1874 and in 1886 as a republican. He was married in 1850 to Frances Fry. They

have two children living—Charles W. and Joseph, Jr.; they lost three—Frank N., John H. and Daniel. He is a member of the Masonic order and also a member of the Knights of Pythias.

William H. Sargent, born in 1842 in Worcester, Mass., is a son of Francis F. and grandson of Daniel H. Sargent. His mother was Susan H., daughter of Ralph Rice. Mr. Sargent graduated in medicine at the Cincinnati Medical College in 1874. In 1876 he opened a drug store in Massachusetts, where he was engaged until 1881. In November of that year he came to Moosup and bought out W. H. Hurlburt in the drug store and succeeded him in the business. He was in the war of the rebellion from 1861 to 1864 in Company B, 32d Massachusetts volunteers. He was married in 1883 to Nettie L., daughter of George W. Davis, of Rhode Island. He is a member of Kilburn Post, No. 77, G. A. R., a member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M. and has been secretary of that order since 1884. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Hubbardstown, Mass.

George W. Shepard was born in 1837 in Plainfield. His father, Captain Jeremiah M. Shepard, was a son of Jeremiah and grandson of Captain Simon Shepard. Mr. Shepard began at the age of nine years in cotton manufacturing in Central Village, and for six years prior to 1862 was overseer of spinning there. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company K, 21st Connecticut Volunteers, was commissioned as second sergeant October 11th, 1862, was promoted to second lieutenant November, 1863, was made first lieutenant, and a few months later was commissioned as captain of the company. He was discharged in 1864. In March, 1866, he came to Wauregan and since that time has been overseer of spinning. He was married in 1875 to Mary E. Dix. They have two children: Jay M. and Ellen L. He is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., and a member of Quinebaug Lodge, No. 22, A. O. U. W. He is a republican.

Albert E. Shoules, born in 1853, is a son of Orrin and grandson of Abial Shoules. His mother is Ardelia (Sweet) Shoules. Mr. Shoules is a farmer, and in March, 1882, he took charge of the town farm, and that year he kept five cows and one pair of horses and had to buy two tons of hay. This year he keeps fifteen head of cattle and a pair of horses, and put up about thirty-five tons of hay. In 1884 he built a basement barn 36 by 60 feet with 17 feet posts. He was married in 1875 to Mary E.

Palmer. They have one son, Lewis E. He is a democrat and a member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M.

William S. Simmons was born in 1839 in Rhode Island, near Phenix. He is a son of Davenport S. and grandson of William S. Simmons. His mother was Mary A., daughter of Reverend Isaac Bonney. Mr. Simmons is a tinsmith by trade. He worked at the trade about four years. In September, 1861, he enlisted in Company F, 8th Connecticut volunteers. He was color sergeant. He and another color sergeant, Jacob Bishop, were the ones that planted the first Union colors on Fort Harrison, September 29th, 1864. They were promoted to second lieutenants for the act. On the 21st of February, 1865, he received a wound at Wilmington, N. C., and lost his left leg in consequence. He represented the town in the legislature in 1881. He was post-master at Moosup seven years after the war. He was married in 1864 to Angeline L., daughter of Christopher Lyon. They have one daughter, Agnes L. He was in Florida a part of the time ten years prior to 1882. He has lived at Central Village since 1882.

John S. Smith was born in 1823 in Preston. He is a son of Elisha, who held a captain's commission for several years in a military company, and a grandson of Asa, who was a son of Jeremiah. His mother was Mary, daughter of Samuel Henry. He came to Plainfield in 1856, and owns a farm of 230 acres. The house where he now lives was built in 1828 by Mason Cornell. He was selectman for several years. He was married in 1854 to Frances C., daughter of Mason Cornell, a son of William, he a son of Gideon, and he a son of Stephen. Her mother was Philena A., daughter of John Monroe. The names of their four children are: William C., Anna P., Mary C. (now Mrs. Everett E. Brown) and Arthur M. Mr. Smith has been a prohibitionist since 1872.

Daniel Spaulding was born in 1838 in Plainfield. His father, Daniel, was a son of Daniel. His mother was Dinah Medbury. He is one of three children now living: Rachel, Daniel and Lydia H. Mr. Spaulding has been a farmer at this place for twenty-two years, and owns a part of what was the homestead of his father and grandfather. He has been selectman six years, and has filled other town offices. He was married in 1868 to Laura A., daughter of William Hiscock. They have two children, Grace M. and Charles N. Mr. Spaulding is a republican.

Henry C. Starkweather, born in Windham in 1826, is a son of Elisha and grandson of Ephraim Starkweather. In 1845 he went to Providence, R. I., where he was employed in the bleaching and dyeing business until 1855, when he removed to Norwich, Conn., where he was engaged in the same business until 1862, at which time he came to Plainfield. He has been assessor of taxes, justice of the peace, county commissioner three years, and represented the town in the legislature in 1874. In January, 1886, he was appointed postmaster at Plainfield, which office he now holds. He was married in 1858 to Ellen Dillaby. She died in 1864, leaving two daughters, Emma A. and Hattie B. He was married in 1865 to Sarah D. Burdick, by whom he has one son, Henry S. He also has one son by a former marriage, Festus L. He is a member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M.

Jeremiah Starkweather, born in 1809 in Burlington, N. Y., is a son of Jeremiah and grandson of Aaron Starkweather. Mr. Starkweather has been a farmer, with the exception of about ten years, during which time he was station agent. He has been judge of probate, and has held other town offices, as a republican. He was married first in 1838, to Hannah Card. She died in 1849. He was married in 1855 to Roby, daughter of George Kenyon, who came from Rhode Island to this town when a boy (about 1795). He was in the war of 1812.

Harriet Stockley was born in England, and is a daughter of Joseph Whitaker. She was married December 25th, 1848, to William Stockley. They came to Slatersville, R. I., in the spring following, where he was employed as mill operative. In 1857 they removed to Wauregan, where Mr. Stockley was overseer of mule spinning until 1875, when he retired on account of his health, and he died the February following, aged 53 years. They had two sons: John W., who died in infancy, and Arthur W., who was in the Company store at Wauregan about seven years. He was married in 1878 to Mary Leach, and died in 1881. His widow was married in 1885 to John F. Lewis. They have one daughter, Mary L. Mrs. Stockley came to Central Village in January, 1882, where she now lives with Mr. Lewis and his family. Mr. Stockley was a republican and a member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M.

Amasa P. Tabor was born in 1846, in Cazenovia, Madison county, N. Y. His father was Peleg C., son of Peleg Tabor. His mother was Abbie, daughter of Amasa Borden. Mr. Tabor

moved from New York to Coventry, R. I., in 1858. He was first interested in the mercantile trade in 1870, at Green Station, R. I., with Charles J. Borden (firm of Borden & Tabor). In 1871 Mr. Tabor bought his partner's interest, for seven years carried on the business alone, and in 1878 sold out to Oliver Lewis. He was in this town from 1880 to 1885, as agent for Aldrich & Milner; then he was with a Providence firm two years, and in March, 1887, he came back to Almyville, and since that time he has been a member of the firm of Tabor & Kenyon, general merchants. He was married in 1860 to Peora F. Jencks. They have two children living, Irving A. and Abbie P., and two died in infancy. He enlisted in the 1st R. I. Light Artillery in March, 1865, and was discharged in June. He is a member of Kilburn Post, No. 77, G. A. R., a member of the Masonic order, and also of the Odd Fellows.

Nathaniel P. Thompson was born in 1827 in Voluntown, Conn. He is a son of Isaac W., and grandson of Reuben Thompson. His mother is Anna, daughter of Major John Wilcox, son of Abram Wilcox. Mr. Thompson was a mill operative from a lad until 1861. In September of that year he enlisted in Company K, 21st Connecticut volunteers. He was wounded in the left hand at Drury's Bluff, May 16th, 1862, and was discharged in February, 1865. In the spring of the same year he came to Central Village, and was employed as a mill operative until 1872, and since that time he has been constable and deputy sheriff, with the exception of two years collector. He was married in 1851 to Maria, daughter of John R. Snow. They have three children: Frank S., Mary I. (Mrs. Daniel Shippee), and Annie L. Mr. Thompson is a member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M., and Kilburn Post, No. 77, G. A. R.

Abbie C. Tillinghast is a daughter of Knight Spalding, and granddaughter of Reuben Spalding. Her mother was Lucy (Prior) Spalding. She was married in 1861 to Rufus Kennedy, who died in 1872. He was a son of Robert Kennedy, and was a manufacturer here for several years, and later a farmer. She was married a few years later to Mr. Tillinghast, who was killed by a locomotive.

Charles A. Tillinghast was born in 1808 in Voluntown, Conn. He is a son of Joseph, son of Charles, son of John, son of Pardon, son of Elder Pardon Tillinghast, who came from England to Providence. His mother was Sarah, daughter of William

Gorton. Mr. Tillinghast learned the cabinet maker's trade, worked at it about eight years, and has since been a machinist. He has worked at the latter trade about 57 years. He came to Moosup in 1847, and in 1848 he built the house which he has occupied since that time. He was married in 1831 to Sophia, daughter of Andrew and Martha (Parkis) Young. They have two children living, Alva H. and Jennie S., now Mrs. T. Avery Tillinghast. They lost three children in infancy: Sarah F., Helen S. and Charles E. Mr. Tillinghast is a republican, and a member of Plainfield Union Baptist church.

Frank C. Tillinghast was born in 1860 in Sterling, Conn. His father, Albert, was a son of George and grandson of Elder Pardon Tillinghast. His mother was Orra, daughter of Benjamin Clark. Mr. Tillinghast is a farmer. He came to this town in 1888 and bought a farm of 190 acres of Alexander Hill. He was married in 1888 to Lizzie, daughter of Russell Hill, of Sterling, Conn. He is a member of Plainfield Union Baptist church.

Frank H. Tillinghast, son of Waldo Tillinghast, was born in 1860 in Plainfield. Mr. Tillinghast was educated at the Plainfield Academy and at Schofield's Business College of Providence. He had charge of a store for his father at Packerville about two years prior to 1883. In October of that year he, in company with Mr. Palmer, purchased the goods in the Company store at Central Village, and it was run as Tillinghast & Palmer until July, 1886. At that time Palmer retired and Mr. Tillinghast has since been alone. He was married in 1882 to Annie M., daughter of Olney Dodge. He is a republican and a member of Moosup Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M.

Henry S. Tillinghast, born in 1835 in Killingly, is a son of Thomas S. and grandson of Deacon Pardon Tillinghast, of West Greenwich, R. I. Mr. Tillinghast carried on a hotel at Plainfield about three years prior to 1861. In August of that year he enlisted in Company C, First Squadron Connecticut Cavalry, and was mustered in at Scarsdale in the "Harris Light," or 2d New York Cavalry. He has been engaged in buying farmers' produce and dealing in horses about nineteen years, and in February, 1887, he took the Moosup House, which he has run since that time. He was married in 1858 to Catharine T., daughter of Silas and Eliza Crain. They have had six children: George C., who was killed in 1880; Byron H., who died aged three years; Mary E., now Mrs. Walter Smith; Emma H., Willie A. and Bertha May, who died aged seven years.

George H. Tripp was born in 1862 in Thompson. His father, Henry D., was a son of John S. and grandson of Perry Tripp. His mother is Adelaide J. Simmons. Mr. Tripp was brought up a farmer, and in July, 1883, he established a coal and wood yard in Central Village. In 1885 he bought the Central block of Charles J. Aspinwall, and he now keeps grain and feed. He handles about 3,000 tons of coal per year. He was married in November, 1887, to Lena F., daughter of Rufus D. Curtis.

Perry G. Tripp, born in 1823 in Plainfield, is a son of John S. Tripp, born in Exeter, R. I., and grandson of Perry Tripp. His mother was Sarah, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Bissel. Samuel Bissel was a revolutionary soldier. He came to Plainfield in 1823. John S. Tripp came to this town at the same time and settled in the south part of the town. Mr. Tripp lived with his father until 1840; then he engaged in whaling about six years. In that time he went twice around the world. Since that time he has been a farmer. Prior to 1869 he was in Brooklyn, Conn., about twenty years. In 1869 he came to Plainfield and bought about two hundred acres. He still owns the farm in Brooklyn of about 250 acres. He keeps about forty cows. He was married in 1848 to Lydia A. Robbins. She died in 1874, leaving seven children: Perry G., Jr., Elihu S., John B., Emma, Isabel, Grace and Lizzie. He was married again in 1876 to Hattie Robbins. She has one daughter, Anna I. He has been selectman and held other town offices. He is a democrat. He is a member of Packerville Baptist church.

Joseph Vaughn was born in 1811 in Sterling. His father, Jesse Vaughn, who died in 1823 aged 77 years, had twelve children by his first wife; and by his second wife, Mary E. French, four children: John, Joseph, Lydia and Mary. Mr. Vaughn is the only one of the sixteen children now living. He was a blacksmith about fifteen years, then a farmer. He lived in Tolland, Conn., about twenty-five years. He came to Central Village and bought a house and lot in 1879, and has lived here since that time. He was married in 1838 and his wife died in 1865. He was married in 1866 to Mary Eliza Young. They have two children—John E. and Mary E. He has been deacon of Plainfield Union Baptist church about nine years.

William H. and John E. Williams are sons of William A. Williams. William H. was born in 1860 in Westerly, R. I. He began in 1880 to learn the blacksmith's trade, and has followed it

since that time. John E. was born in 1864. He began in 1883 in Norwich to learn the blacksmith's trade. They came to Moosup in 1887, October 10th, bought the blacksmith shop of John W. Fisk, and since that time have carried on a blacksmith business there. Their younger brother, Dudley B., also works with them. William H. was married in 1885 to Emily Finamore. They have one daughter, Ida.

Caleb P. Wilson, son of Jared Wilson, was born in 1813 in Sterling. He came to Wauregan in 1854 as overseer of weaving, and continued in that capacity until December, 1866. Since then he has been superintendent of the mill. Prior to 1854 he had been overseer of weaving in Central Village about eight years. He was a member of the legislature in 1851 as a whig. He was married first in 1839. He lost his first wife, and was married again in 1883. He is a republican.

Betsey A. Wilcox is the daughter of William Wilcox, who was born in 1801, in West Greenwich, R. I. He was a son of Thomas, and he a son of Nathan Wilcox. Mr. Wilcox left his home in West Greenwich at the age of 28, and from that time until 1844, he worked as stone mason in different parts of New England, and was four years in New York state. It is said that he built all the locks on the canal from Albany to Troy. From 1844 until his death, which occurred on November 19th, 1884, he had been a farmer. William Wilcox was married in 1849 to Mary A., daughter of Hezekiah French, who was a son of Isaac French. They had two daughters—Betsey A. and French, who died aged four years. Mr. Wilcox was a democrat.

Erbin S. Wilson, born in 1851 in Plainfield, is a son of Rufus, and grandson of Nathaniel Wilson. His mother is Phoebe, daughter of John and Celia Young. Rufus was married in 1849, and died in 1885. Nathaniel Wilson and his brother bought the farm where Erbin S. now lives about 1800. He built the house where Erbin S. now lives for his son Thomas. Nathaniel had eight children: Rufus, Thomas, Rachel, Eunice, Polly, Olive, Zylpha and Sally. Mr. Wilson was married in 1883 to Josie G., daughter of James H. Fairman. She died in 1884, leaving one son. He was married again in 1885 to Melissa, daughter of Cyrus Bennett. He is a republican, and a member of the Moosup Methodist Episcopal church.

Henry N. Wood, Jr., was born in 1850 in South Scituate, R. I. He is a son of Henry N. and Mary (Salisbury) Wood, and grand-

son of Nehemiah and Phila (Salisbury) Wood. Mr. Wood is a machinist by trade. He has lived at Wauregan since 1865, with the exception of five years. He was boss machinist at Phenix, R. I., for three years, and since he came back has been boss machinist at Wauregan Mills. He was married in 1871 to Ada, daughter of Enoch W. Waldo. They have two daughters, Cora M. and Minnie F. He is a member of Wauregan Congregational church, a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., Warren Chapter, No. 12, and Protection Lodge, No. 19, I. O. of O. F.

Henry A. Young was born in 1838 in Killingly. He is a son of Stephen G., whose father was Stephen Young. His mother is Mary (Hill) Young. Stephen G. was a machinist by trade. He came from Killingly to this town in 1841, and in 1850 he bought a farm of 130 acres. He died in 1885. Henry A. is a farmer, occupying the homestead of his father. He was married in 1883 to Anna J., daughter of Joseph and Almira (Kimball) James, and granddaughter of Perry G., a son of Joseph James, who was a revolutionary soldier.

CANTERBURY.

Dwight Barstow was born in Canterbury Plains, August 8th, 1820. He is a son of Hezekiah and Rebecca (Gager) Barstow, and grandson of Hezekiah and Olive (Bradford) Barstow. He was educated in Canterbury, and is about the only living person that attended Prudence Crandall's school at the time she dismissed her white scholars and filled up her school with colored. He held the office of highway surveyor for thirty years. He was married to Amelia Lyon, September 18th, 1854, and their children are: Charles, George and Frank. Mr. Barstow is a member of the Congregational church. The family have occupied one slip in the Canterbury church for 50 years.

George L. Carey was born in Canterbury, October 12th, 1842, is a son of Benajah and Mary Bacon Adams Carey, and grandson of James and Phebe Carey. He was educated in the Canterbury schools. At the age of eighteen he enlisted in the 1st Connecticut cavalry, Company A, Captain Andrew W. Bowen. He served for three years under such generals as Grant, Sheridan, Custer and Sigel, and is now a member of Sedgwick Post, No. 1, G. A. R. His brother Dwight Carey, enlisted at the age of 16, and lost his life at the battle of Antietam. His remains

were brought home. His brother Asa B. Carey, is a graduate of West Point, served all through the rebellion, and is now paymaster in the regular army. Mr. Carey represented his town in the legislature for two sessions. He is married to Fannie R. Fisher, daughter of Benjamin F. and Fannie Havens Fisher. He attends the Congregational church.

T. G. Clarke was born in Franklin, Conn., June 16th, 1809. His parents were Allen G. and Celinda (Darling) Clarke, and his grandparents were Asa and Rebecca (Allen) Clarke. Mr. Clarke taught school in the winter time from the age of 16 to 21, then prepared for the theological seminary at East Windsor, from which he graduated and preached until health failed. He then engaged in farming. He was a member of the legislature four years. He married for his first wife Cressa Judson, in September, 1844, and by her had the following children: Rebecca, Isabella, Josephine J., Andrew T. J., Allen G. and John D. He was married in April, 1870, to Sarah Johnson. Mr. Clarke has been deacon of the Congregational church 34 years.

J. L. Hyde, born in Canterbury, June 12th, 1826, is a son of Nehemiah and Rebecca (Lewis) Hyde, and grandson of Jonathan and Hannah (Bentley) Hyde. He was married March 24th, 1851, to Mary Ann Olin. Their children are: Hannah Adelaide and Frederick Louis.

G. T. Kendall, born in Canterbury, October 30th, 1821, is a son of John and Sarah (Parkhurst) Kendall, and grandson of John and Lois (Palmer) Kendall. Mr. Kendall has held numerous town offices. He attends the Unitarian church of Brooklyn.

Rufus S. Ladd, born in Franklin, Conn., August 17th, 1824, is a son of Festus and Ruby Ladd. His maternal grandparents were Ezekiel Ladd and Ruth Hyde. His paternal grandparents were Abner Ladd and Abigail Perkins. Mr. Ladd was representative in the legislature of 1875. He was married May 27th, 1857, to Jane M. Ladd. Their children were: Elsie D. and William E. Elsie D. died March 14th, 1884, in the 29th year of her age. Jane M. Ladd's grandfather on her father's side was Hazen Ladd, and her grandmother Rhode Smith; on her mother's side Abner Ladd and Sallie Cook.

John McMurray was born in County Ayr, Scotland, September 16th, 1827, and is a son of Gilbert and Janet McMurray. He was married February 11th, 1868, to Sarah M., daughter of

George and Miranda Lyon, and has one daughter, Jennie Faith. Mr. McMurray is a deacon in the Congregational church.

James B. Palmer, son of Asher and Joanna (Ames) Palmer, and grandson of Uriah and Elizabeth (Newton) Palmer, was born in Norwich, Conn., January 17th, 1830, and is a farmer. He represented his town in the legislature and is at present first selectman. He was married in 1854 to Sarah W. Holmes. Their children are: Alice, Alida, Addie, Nellie, Mary, Frankie, Jennie, Libby, Asher P., and William J. Mr. Palmer attends the Congregational church.

Charles L. Ray, born in Voluntown, Conn., in 1826, is a son of Palmer and Annie (Brewster) Ray. He is deacon of the Congregational church of Canterbury Green. He was married January 27th, 1850, to Phebe Eaton.

Edmund Smith, born in Canterbury, November 8th, 1834, is a son of John and grandson of Roger Smith. His mother was Emeline Williams and his grandmother Alice Bingham. His brother John O. Smith was born in Canterbury October 31st, 1840, and is a graduate of the New York Eclectic College. His sister Harriet W., was born in Canterbury July 15th, 1832, and in 1856 married Danforth C. Bugbee. Mr. Smith holds the office of selectman. He was married March 17th, 1863, to Abbie C. Stanton and has one son, Burr S.

Walter Smith, born in Canterbury February 12th, 1811, is a son of Walter and Lydia (Mudge) Smith. His grandfather was John and his great-grandfather Joseph Smith. Mr. Smith has represented his town for three terms in the legislature. He was married in 1835 to Susan Lyon. Their children are: Henry, Helen, Columbus, Mellen W., Elbert and Flora.

Washington Smith, born in Canterbury in January, 1833, is a son of J. B. Smith and grandson of Roger Smith. For thirty-five years he has successfully conducted his business of blacksmith in this place. He married Mary A. Brown in 1856. His children are: George W., born 1858; Mary E., 1860; Charles F., 1863; and Ruth K., 1867.

BROOKLYN.

Lorin S. Atwood, born in Mansfield July 23d, 1812, is one of twelve children of Elisha and Anna (Hartshorn) Atwood. From about 1850 to 1860 he was engaged in the hotel business in Hampton. He then removed to Brooklyn and was a merchant

there till his death in 1888. He married, first, a Miss Cooley, by whom he had three children: Juliette, Arvila and Herman. His second wife was Margaret Bradbent, who had one son—Oscar F.

John M. Baker, son of Almon and Hannah (Tucker) Baker and grandson of John Baker, was born in Brooklyn in 1814, and has followed the business of carriage making through life. He married Sarah French, of Plainfield, daughter of Hezekiah French, February 14th, 1848. Their children are: John F., born in 1849; Edwin, born in 1851; and Jennie, born in 1856, died in 1887.

Henry D. Bassett, son of Joseph Bassett, was born in 1828. About 1852, he succeeded his father in the business of making cloth, which the latter had carried on for twenty years. A year later he changed the business to carding wool and grinding grain. In 1866 he built a new saw mill. Mr. Bassett is one of the most successful business men of Brooklyn. He married Alsada, daughter of Pardon Phillips. Their children are: Edward W., Fannie, Ellen L., George C. (who was killed by being thrown from a load of lumber on his seventeenth birthday, June 28th, 1880), Mary C. and Almira.

Benjamin Brown, born in Brooklyn in 1807, is a son of Benjamin Brown and grandson of John Brown. Benjamin Brown, Sr., married Susanna Cooper, daughter of Nathaniel Cooper, of Rehoboth, Mass., and came to Brooklyn in 1805. He had four children: Susan, Benjamin, Emeline and George. Benjamin Brown in early life was engaged in teaching, and since 1839 has been a farmer. He married Emeline Mason, of Providence. Their children are: George, Frank, Charles (in Providence), Ardelia (married a Pond), Ann (married Joseph K. Potter), John (married Hattie Utley), William and James A., who graduated at Brown University in 1883 and at Newton Theological Seminary in 1836. He is a Baptist minister at Newark, Ohio.

Sanford Chapman was born in Griswold, Conn., and came to Brooklyn in 1850. He is one of eleven children of Joseph and Ruth (Main) Chapman, and grandson of Rufus Main, a soldier of the revolutionary war. Mr. Chapman is a successful farmer. He was married in 1844 to Laura, daughter of Ira Miller, and has six children: Mary, married Alfred Havens; Hattie, Irving, Alice, married Wellington James; Ida and Susie.

Francis Clark was born in Leeds, England, and came to Brooklyn in 1852. He learned the trade of currier, and bought a tannery in Brooklyn in 1853, which business he conducted till his death in 1875. He married Sarah M. Heath in 1841. They had five children: Sarah, Benjamin, Levi, Francis and John.

Henry M. Cleveland, son of Mason Cleveland, was born in Hampton, Conn., in 1827. He was a member of the general assembly in 1867, 1877, and 1882, a member of the state board of education four years, appointed in 1877 a member of special commission to examine insurance companies of Connecticut, and appointed member of commission to revise expenditures of state. He married Mary A., daughter of Jonathan A. Welch, in 1854. They have four children: Louis B., a graduate of Columbia Law School, class of 1876, lawyer at Putnam; Lilly C., married Lieutenant Commander Louis Kingsley of the United States Navy; Mary A., and Henry M. Jr.

Martin W. Crosby was born in Lisbon, Conn., and came to Brooklyn in 1855. The ancestor of the family in this country came from Lancashire to America in the ship "Susan & Ellen" in 1635. Mr. Crosby was appointed deacon of the Congregational church of Brooklyn in 1877, which position he has retained until the present time. He married Abby, daughter of Marvin Dexter, and a descendant in seventh generation from Reverend Gregory Dexter, who came to America and settled at Providence in 1644, and was pastor of the First Baptist church at Providence. They have two children: Henry D., and Mary A.

William H. Cutler, born in Killingly in 1817, is a son of Dan and Amy (Bussey) Cutler, the former a soldier of the war of 1812, and a son of Benjamin Cutler. In early life William H. worked in a cotton mill. He was in the jewelry business in Providence about twenty years, came to Brooklyn in 1865, and has since been a farmer. He has been selectman several years. He married Sarah F. Washburn of Killingly, and they have one son, Charles H., an engineer at Taunton, Mass.

Charles Dorrance was born in Brooklyn in 1824. He is a son of Samuel, and is descended from one of the early settlers of the county. He married, first, Janet Sharp, and second, in 1877, Frances Davis, daughter of Randall Davis. His children are: George, born 1850, lives at St. Paul; Janet C., married John Davenport; Harriet E., married Albert Putnam; Kate, and Fannie G., married John Payne.

Vine R. Franklin was born in Brooklyn January 2d, 1843. He is a son of John and Laura P. (Hammond) Franklin, whose children were Vine, William H. and Annie, and a grandson of William B. Franklin, of Ashford. Mr. Franklin represented Brooklyn in the legislature of 1887, and has held various town offices. He married Josephine H. Main, of Brooklyn, and has one daughter, Lucy H., born in 1867.

John Gallup, born in Sterling April 9th, 1807, was a son of David and Nancy (Jacques) Gallup, and descended from John Gallup, who came from England in 1630 and married Christabel, sister of Governor Winthrop. Mr. Gallup was educated at the schools of Brooklyn and Plainfield; was deputy sheriff and sheriff for ten years in early life; was president of the Windham County National Bank twenty years; representative to the legislature twice, once as senator, and was bank commissioner three years. He married Maria C. Tyler, great-granddaughter of General Putnam. Their children were: Henry, superintendent of the Boston & Albany railroad; Ellen M. and Edward, who was assistant general manager of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad, and died in October, 1888, at 46 years of age.

George G. Gilbert was born in Brooklyn October 20th, 1814. He is a son of John W. and Hannah A. Gilbert and great-grandson of John Gilbert, the first of the name in Windham county, who was of the fourth generation from Sir John Gilbert, who came from Devonshire, England, to Massachusetts in 1636. In early life Mr. Gilbert learned the machinist's trade, which he followed eight years, and has since been a farmer. He has been twice married.

Hezekiah Hammond, son of Hezekiah, born December 18th, 1782, married October 1st, 1804, Polly Greenslit, and had three children. She died in 1814. He married Lora Burnett in 1816 and she died in 1817, leaving one child. He married third, Hannah Warren, daughter of John and Hannah (Fuller) Warren, April 22d, 1819. She had four children: Charlotte, Helen, Frances and Lucy. Charlotte, the eldest, born November 16th, 1822, married September 28th, 1847, Gurdon A. Brown, son of Artemas Brown, of Brooklyn, who was educated at the schools of Brooklyn, and engaged in real estate business at Philadelphia, where he died at 32 years of age. Hezekiah Hammond, 2d, brother of Colonel Asahel, was a descendant of Thomas Hammond, of

Suffolk county, England, who married Rose Tripp May 14th, 1573, and whose sons William and Thomas came to America about the year 1630.

Colonel Asahel Hammond was born in Hampton May 10th, 1778, and married December 9th, 1801, Betsey Robinson. He removed to Brooklyn, Conn., in 1842, was a director of the Windham County Bank and president of the Windham County Fire Insurance Company, and colonel of the state militia. He died in 1861, and his wife died in 1865. They had eleven children, of whom Catherine, born May 10th, 1810, married in 1834 C. W. Cain, of Petersburg, Va., who was ensign in the 2d Regiment, United States Dragoons, in the war of 1812, and afterward a merchant in New York city. They had three children: 1. James H., born 1836, received an academical education, enlisted at the commencement of the civil war, was wounded and confined in Libby Prison during the summer of 1864, was first lieutenant 1st Connecticut cavalry; 2. Elizabeth A., born 1838, married in 1866 John W. Hunt, who came from England, was engaged in mercantile business in New York, and died in 1885, leaving three children; 3. Mary C. Cain, born July 14th, 1840, resides at the old homestead at Brooklyn.

Harvey Harris, born in Brooklyn in 1859, is a son of George W. Harris, one of the largest land owners in Windham county, who was a son of Hosea Harris. Harvey Harris was married to Mary Cheney December 25th, 1882.

Erastus Harris was born in Brooklyn in 1815. About the year 1839 he commenced the business of blacksmithing and wagon making. His business increased until he employed fifteen or twenty men. He also carried on farming, and for many years engaged in staging, owning several different lines. In the time of the civil war he was active in the support of the government. He contributed largely to the growth and prosperity of the community, and was kind and charitable to the poor. He married in 1840 Miss Amy Herrick, daughter of Timothy Herrick. They had one daughter, Fannie, who married Charles W. Snow. Mr. Harris died in 1871.

Elias H. Main, son of Gardner, and grandson of Nathaniel Main, was born in Norwich, Conn., in 1808. In early life he was a mason, and afterward engaged in mercantile and real estate business in New York city. He has held various town offices. He married Susannah, daughter of Reverend John G. Dorrance,

a graduate of Brown University, who was a grandson of Reverend Samuel Dorrance, a graduate of the University of Glasgow, who settled in Sterling, Conn. Their children are: Sarah E., Caroline T., George W., Alice P. and John G., who was adjutant in the 6th New York cavalry, and was killed at Cedar Creek, October 19th, 1864.

Enoch Pond was born in 1810, and came to Brooklyn in 1824. He is a son of Enoch, and grandson of Enoch Pond, who came from Wrentham, Mass., to Ashford, Conn., and was pastor of the church there. Mr. Pond learned the trade of cabinet maker, which has been the business of his life. He married Sarah A. Utley, and they have four sons: Theodore D., who enlisted in the 21st Connecticut volunteers and served till close of war, married Delia M. Brown; George E., enlisted in the 21st Regiment, was wounded at the battle of Dury's Bluff, graduated at West Point in 1872, and is a captain in the United States army; Charles F., graduated at Annapolis in 1872, is lieutenant in navy, and John C., an officer at the Connecticut state prison.

Abram Shepard, born in 1806, in Plainfield, was a son of John Shepard, and a descendant in the fourth generation from Isaac Shepard, one of the first settlers of the town of Plainfield. Abram Shepard came to Brooklyn about 1837, and engaged in farming and mercantile business, which he continued till his death, in 1877. He was married in 1828 to Hannah Webb of Sterling. Their children were: Edward, living in California; Mary, married to James Pike; Maria, Duncan, Cameron and Esther A., a school teacher.

Simon Shepard, son of William, and grandson of Simon, was born in Plainfield in 1833, came to Brooklyn in 1866, and is a farmer. He is one of the selectmen of the town, and has held various town offices. He was married in 1857 to Louisa, daughter of John Gardner. Their children are: Martha, married John E. Allen; Nettie, married Benjamin Clark; John, Charles C., Jennie, Morgan and Simon E.

Preston B. Sibley was born in Eastford, Conn., and came to Brooklyn in 1880. He is a son of Samuel Sibley, who came to Windham county from Sutton, Mass., in 1827, and a descendant in the sixth generation from one Sibley, who came from Wales to Massachusetts in 1705. He is a director in the savings bank, and Windham County Insurance Company. He was married in 1862 to Katie Noble, and they have three children.

Joseph B. Stetson, born in Brooklyn, Conn., is a son of James, and a descendant in the eighth generation from Robert Stetson, who settled at Scituate, Mass., in 1634, and a great-grandson of Nathan Witter, who came to Brooklyn from Preston in 1753. Mr. Stetson represented Brooklyn in the legislature of 1880.

B. H. Weaver was born in Plymouth, Vt., in March, 1814. He is a son of Caleb Weaver, who married Betsey Clark, grandson of Benjamin Weaver, who served as a captain in the revolutionary war, and a descendant of Clement Weaver, who lived at Newport, R. I., as early as 1655. Mr. Weaver was in mercantile business in Massachusetts from 1833 to 1855, then removed to New York city, where he continued business till 1861, then came to Brooklyn, Conn., where he has been engaged in farming till the present time. He was married October 19th, 1841, to Sarah J. Gates, and has one son, J. Frank Weaver.

Charles G. Williams was born in Sterling, Conn., is a son of Nathaniel and Hannah Williams, and grandson of Samuel Williams. In early life he taught school, and afterward was a farmer. He married in 1846 Lucy E. Gallup, of Sterling, daughter of John Gallup. His second wife was Ruby G. Burgess, daughter of David Gallup, of Plainfield. He has three children: Mary M., born in 1848; Nathaniel, born in 1850, and John C., born in 1856.

Henry N. Wood was born in South Scituate, R. I., and came to Plainfield, Conn., in 1865. He is a son of Nehemiah and Phila Wood. The family are of English origin. Mr. Wood learned the trade of blacksmith, and has for many years been foreman in that department at the mills of the Wauregan Company. He married in 1848 Mary Saulsbury and has three sons: Nehemiah, Henry and Charles, who married Ida Westcott.

STERLING.

James Bailey came from Wales, settled in West Greenwich, R. I., and had four children. His son Titus, a captain in the revolutionary war, married Mary Fish and settled in Sterling. His son James married Eunice Bailey. They had five children, one of whom was James, who was a soldier in the war of 1812, and married Sabra Swan. They had eight children. The only one in Sterling is Charles H., born in 1832, and married to Ida Gordon. He was a member of the 8th Regiment, Connecticut volunteers.

Jerome Cahoon, born in 1838, enlisted in the Eighteenth Regiment, Connecticut volunteers, in 1862, served in second battle of Bull Run and other engagements, and was killed at the battle of Piedmont June 5th, 1864. He married Ruth Gibson, daughter of Harden Gibson, in 1856. The latter was a son of James Gibson. Mrs. Cahoon has one son, Frank E., born July 21st, 1861.

Benjamin Fenner came from Cranston, R. I., to Sterling about 1801. He married Mary Green, daughter of Colonel Christopher Green, and had nine children. Three of these children settled in Sterling. One of these, Jeremiah, married Elsie Barber and had five children, of whom John married Lydia F. Winsor. They have one son and two daughters. John Fenner has been selectman of Sterling several years and has held other town offices. David Winsor came from Glocester, R. I., to Sterling in 1797 and settled on the place now owned by John Fenner. He married Lydia Angel and had eleven children, one of whom, Ira, married Almira Main. Their children were: Ira C., who was an assistant surgeon in the civil war; Lydia F.; John, a member of the 26th Regiment, Connecticut volunteers, now a physician at Quidnick, R. I., and Emma.

Nathaniel Gallup was born in Sterling and is a farmer. He is a son of Nathaniel Gallup, who was born in 1798, and who was selectman in Sterling twenty-eight years, representative to the general assembly twice, besides holding minor town offices, and who was a son of Benadam Gallup, a soldier of the revolutionary war, and descended from John Gallup, who came to America in 1630, and married Christabel Winthrop. Nathaniel Gallup married Mary E. Mathewson, daughter of Bowen Mathewson, of Voluntown. They have five children: Nettie, Mary, Julia, Avis and George S.

Allen Gibson, son of Campbell Gibson and grandson of James Gibson, was born in 1810 in Sterling, Conn. His mother was Abigail, daughter of Asa Montgomery, the first town clerk of Sterling. Allen Gibson learned the trade of stone cutter, and became widely known as a builder and contractor, building many stone dams and mills in eastern Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. He represented Sterling in the legislature of 1855. His children were: Amanda, Mary M., Oscar F., Lucy J. and Robie. Mary M. married Oliver W. Champlin, who enlisted in the 18th Connecticut volunteers, served three years, and was wounded.

Silas Griffiths, born in Sterling in 1837, is a son of George and Dorcas (Holloway) Griffiths, and grandson of Southward Griffiths, who was a soldier in the revolutionary war and came to Sterling about 1785. He was a son of Amos Griffiths, who came from Wales to Newport about 1750. Silas Griffiths was ordained as pastor of the Baptist church in 1874, and is also engaged in farming and dealing in agricultural supplies and lumber. He married Julia A. Boswell, of Killingly, in 1859, and has two children, Winfield S. and John E. Jared Griffiths, brother of Silas, born in 1826, was prominent in town affairs, enlisted in the 26th Regiment Connecticut volunteers, and died of sickness at New Orleans June 27th, 1863.

David S. Kenyon, born in Sterling, Conn., is a son of John W. Kenyon, one of twelve children, and grandson of Moses Kenyon, the first of the name in Sterling. Mr. Kenyon represented the town in the legislature in 1885 and 1886, and has held many town offices.

John Kinnie, of Voluntown, married Lucy Gallup and had nine children, one of whom, Freelove, married Richard Davis of Griswold. He died in 1882, leaving five children: John R., Albert E., Allen E., Judson, and Mary F., who married Charles E. Young of Voluntown, who died in 1876.

John Knox, son of John Knox, was born in Sterling, Conn., in 1807, and is a successful farmer. He married Caroline, daughter of John Young, a soldier of the war of 1812 and son of Joel Young, of Killingly. They have one son, John Knox, who married Susan, daughter of Philip Winslow, and is a farmer in Sterling.

Asa Potter was of English ancestry and fifth in line of descent from Roger Williams. He was born in Cranston, R. I., May 24th, 1782, married Ruth Stafford in 1803, lived in Providence and Warwick, R. I., until about 1812, when he settled at Thompson, Windham county, removing to Sterling in 1820 and living there till his death. He was one of the most prominent cotton manufacturers of his day, doing business and furnishing employment to many people at what was called the American Factory, which is still standing. His farm consisted of many acres on the Quanduck river, and he had many houses which furnished homes to his employes. His family consisted of ten children, six sons and four daughters. Edwin G. Potter, the youngest of the family, married and went to Hartford, re-

turning to the old homestead, when he came in possession of it in 1851. Here his two children were born and his life passed in peace and quiet until 1883, when he became involved in a lawsuit which became an historic case. Silas Wait and A. A. Stanton came upon a portion of the Potter farm which they claimed was disputed territory, and cut off and carried away an acre of his most valuable timber. Consequently he brought an action of trespass which was fought with a vigor and tenacity rarely equaled. This case, with James H. Potter and Charles E. Searls as counsel for plaintiff, was tried before Judge Stoddard at Brooklyn in May, 1885, before Judge Phelps in November of the same year, and before Judge Andrews in September, 1886, who rejected 'important evidence which the supreme court in March, 1887, at Hartford, decided was an error, and ordered a new trial before Chief Justice Park at Brooklyn in October, 1887, which resulted in judgment for the plaintiff, and the defendants were compelled to pay damages for cutting his valuable timber.

James L. Young, son of Jeremiah J. Young, was born at Smithfield, R. I., and came to Sterling in 1858. He enlisted in the 21st Regiment Connecticut volunteers, and served three years. He represented his town in the legislature in 1875 and 1876, and was town clerk eight years. He married Maria, daughter of Newman Chaffee.

VOLUNTOWN.

John Bitgood came to Voluntown from Warwick, R. I., about 1800, and lived on the place now occupied by William Bitgood. His son Elisha, born 1801, married Betsey Church, and had ten children, of whom Joel K. enlisted in the 12th Connecticut volunteers, and served three years in the rebellion. He was wounded at Port Hudson. He is one of the selectmen of Voluntown. He married Maggie Tabor, and their children are: Nellie, Gracie, Roscoe and Joseph E.

Moses Fish came from Groton to Voluntown as early as 1745. He married Elizabeth Morgan, and had two sons, Moses and Daniel. Moses married Jerusha Phillips, and had eight children. The eldest, Levi, married Rebecca Fish, and had six children. The eldest son, Levi H. Fish, married Amy Saunders. He was selectman and justice of the peace many years, and died in 1878. His children are: Miss Julia A. Fish, who has been engaged in millinery and dressmaking in Voluntown village

since 1862, and Anna, who married Luther L. Dennison, who served two years in the 1st Connecticut heavy artillery.

Benjamin Gallup, son of Nathaniel, grandson of John, and great-grandson of John, was born in Stonington, and came to Voluntown and settled on the place occupied by the present Benjamin Gallup. He married Amy, daughter of Thomas Kinzie, and had three sons and eleven daughters, of whom one son Benjamin, born in 1774, married Huldah, daughter of Abel Kinzie, and had two children, Amy and Benjamin. He was selectman and justice of the peace many years, and died in 1854. His son Benjamin, born in 1811, married Caroline Kinnie. They have six children: Laura C., Benjamin S., Amy E., E. Byron, Origen S. and Albert. Mr. Gallup represented Voluntown in the legislature in 1849, 1858 and 1871, and has been selectman and justice of the peace many years. He married for his second wife Fidelia Chapman.

Isaac Gallup, of Voluntown, was a great-grandson of John Gallup, who was one of the founders of the church in Voluntown in 1723. Isaac married Olive Parks and had eleven children: John D., Martha, William W., James H., Clarissa H., Ralph P., Noyes B., Charles E., Olive D., Jared A. and Sarah B.; of whom Martha and Jared A. only remain in Voluntown. Jared was a member of the 21st Regiment, Connecticut volunteers, and represented Voluntown in the legislature of 1875.

Henry C. Gardiner was born in South Kingstown, R. I., one of twenty children, three of whom served in the civil war—George, John and Henry. George died in service and Henry was wounded at Fredericksburg. In 1872 Henry came to Voluntown, where he has since resided. He has been selectman for the last four years, also justice of the peace. He married Texanna Green and has one daughter, Etta.

Amos Herrick was born in Griswold, Conn., in 1827, served as a soldier in the Mexican war, and came to Voluntown in 1857, where he engaged in mercantile business, which he continued till his death in 1880.

Nathaniel Tanner came from West Greenwich (where four generations of his ancestors had lived before him) to Voluntown about 1839. He married Hannah Pratt and had three sons: Jason, William W. and Nathaniel. William W. married Phebe Kenyon, and came to Voluntown in 1862. He is a farmer. He has three sons: Luther S., William J. and George A.

Adam and Jane (Hall) Kasson emigrated from Belfast, Ireland, to Boston, with seven sons and two daughters in 1722, and thence came to Voluntown. Adam was a member of the church at its formation in 1723, was chosen deacon in 1731, and died in 1767. Archibald, a grandson of Adam, was a colonel in the revolutionary war, and received a brigadier general's commission at its close. John P. Kasson, grandson of Archibald, born in 1797, was deacon of the church 40 years and its clerk 48 years. He was also county commissioner two years. He married Betsey A. Wylie and had two children: Joseph, who died aged 16, and Elizabeth, who is now clerk and treasurer of the Congregational church.

William H. Kenyon, 2d, born in Plainfield, is a son of John Kenyon and a descendant of Moses Kenyon, the first of the name in Sterling. He learned the trade of weaver and designer. He is married to Mary E. Mague.

James M. Pratt is a descendant of Amasa Pratt, who came to this country in the last century. James married Charlotte Tanner, and is a farmer and skillful mechanic. He has three children: Edward A., who married Phebe Phillips; Hannah, who married Allen Palmer; and Charles W.

George W. Rouse was a member of Company G, 12th Connecticut volunteers, in the rebellion. In 1888 he engaged in the grocery business in the village of Voluntown. He has frequently been elected to town offices.

Ezekiel Sherman was born in Exeter in 1819, and is a son of Robert Sherman, of English ancestry. He married Hannah Saunders. They have twelve children: Abby, Harriet, Hannah, Priscilla, Sarah, Lydia, Lucy, Idella, Robert, Ezekiel, Sanford and Frank.

THOMPSON.

Samuel Adams was born in 1832, in Dudley, Mass., and is a son of Oliver Adams. He came to Wilsonville in 1857 and bought the mercantile business of D. A. Upham, and has continued the same since that time. In 1888 he enlarged the store, and increased the business. He has been postmaster since June, 1881. He was married in August, 1853, to Almira F. Darby. They have three children: Irene, Irving, and Carrie. He is a republican.

Thomas J. Aldrich was born in 1829, in Rhode Island, and came from Rhode Island to Grosvenor Dale in 1873, where he began the manufacture of soft soap, and in 1876 he began the manufacture of a washing powder, which is mostly used in the factories. Under the style of T. J. Aldrich & Co. they still manufacture the washing powder, and also run a grist and saw mill, which they bought in 1883, known as the Sheldon Mill. He was married in 1853 to Fannie E. Battey, and has seven children: Fannie, Ida, George A., Emma, Sarah M., Edith M., and Fred J. George A. is in business with his father. He was married in 1880 to Cora Emerson, and has one daughter.

James R. Alton was born in 1854. He is a son of Thomas Orlando, grandson of John, and great-grandson of Thomas Alton. His mother was A. Jane, daughter of Benjamin and Silome Alton. Mr. Alton has a farm of 267 acres. He was married in 1880 to Flora Belle Cunningham, and has three daughters: Josephine V., Mary J., and Pearl M. He is a democrat.

Edward G. Arnold, born in 1814 in Woodstock, is a son of James, and grandson of "Major" Moses Arnold, who was drum-major in the revolutionary war. His mother was Hannah Chamberlin. He was a shoemaker for about twenty-five years. Since 1863 he has been a farmer. He was married first in 1835 to Almariah Corbin. They had nine children. He married in 1859 Rachel H. Taft. They had five children. He married for his third wife Ann Eliza Gifford. He married in 1870 Emeline S. Fenn. He is a member of South Woodstock Baptist church, and a member of the Grange P. of H.

James Arnold was born in Gloucester, Providence county, R. I., on the 5th of May, 1822. His father, David Arnold, was also a native of that place, and his grandfather, William Arnold, was born in Smithfield, R. I., May 30th, 1750. The latter served in the revolution, and both William and David Arnold were members of the legislature. The family is of English descent. James Arnold received a limited education, and at the age of twenty-one started in business for himself. Until the age of forty-five he lived in his native state, where he held various local offices. For the past twenty-two years he has resided in Thompson, where he owns a fine farm and home. Mr. Arnold has always been a republican in politics, and is a member of the Methodist church. He was married, first, to Abby Ann White, of

Glocester, by whom he had three children: David, Joseph and Daniel, of whom the latter only survives. Mr. Arnold's second wife was Miss Caroline Withey.

William J. Arnold was born in 1823 in East Greenwich, R. I. He is a son of Larned, grandson of Charles, and great-grandson of Israel Arnold. He came to Thompson in 1839, where he was a cotton mill operative. He was overseer from 1841 until 1884, excepting three years, when he was in the war of the rebellion, in Company D, 18th Connecticut volunteers, from July, 1862, to June, 1865. Since 1884 he has been repairing belts for the Grosvenor Dale Manufacturing Co. He was married in 1849 to Almira Upham. They have three children: Hamilton W., Angeline A., and Ransom L., who was born in 1859, and has been station agent at North Grosvenor Dale since May, 1882. He was married in 1881 to Abbie J. Lombard.

Stephen Ballard was born in 1841 in Thompson. He is a son of Winthrop H. and Salome Ballard. He is grandson of Lynde; he a son of Zaccheus Ballard, whose wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Valentine, son of John Valentine, whose wife was Mary, daughter of Samuel Lynde, whose wife was Mary, daughter of Jairus Ballard, who died December, 1697. Mr. Ballard was educated in the schools of Thompson. He taught school some 18 years. He is now a farmer. He has been a member of the school board of Thompson 25 years in succession. He represented the town in the legislature in 1873. He married Sarah D., daughter of William Barber. They had seven children: Newton, Alice, Ella, Laura C., Bertha, Winthrop and one that died. Mr. Ballard is a republican.

Jerome K. Barnes, born in 1834, is the oldest son of John and grandson of Josiah Barnes. His mother was Catharine (Stone) Barnes. Mr. Barnes is a farmer, living on the homestead where his father resided from 1848 until his death. He was for ten years in Boston, came from there in 1878, and has been a farmer since that time. He was married in 1854 to Malinda A. Cope-land, and has three children: Hattie M., Lillie A. and Herman J. He is a republican.

Edgar L. Bates was born in 1861, in Dudley, Mass. He is a son of Winsor Bates, who is a brother of Walter Bates of Thompson. His mother is Mary K. (Fay) Bates. He was educated in the schools of Thompson, and took a commercial course in Trenton, N. J. He has been for ten years connected with a

pottery manufacturing house in New Jersey, and for the last few years has been commercial traveler for the firm. He was married in 1883 to Virginia S. Smith. They have two daughters, Helen G. and Alice B. Mr. Bates' father is a farmer, and has been connected with the Methodist Episcopal church of East Thompson for nearly sixty years. He is the father of ten children, of whom five are living.

Ira D. Bates, born December 25th, 1838, in Uxbridge, Mass., is a son of Peter Bates. In 1861 Mr. Bates offered his services to the government, but was thrown out, owing to his size, but finally, in August of the same year, he was taken as musician in Company B, 25th Massachusetts volunteers, and nine months later was promoted to drum major, and served until 1865. Since that time he has been engaged in the mercantile business. He has owned and operated the store at New Boston since 1880. He represented the town in the legislature in 1887, and in 1888 he was state senator. He was married in 1866 to Abbie M. Whittemore. They have two daughters.

Ira J. Bates was born in 1827, in Dudley, Mass. He is a son of Nelson, son of "Captain" Alanson, son of John, son of Jacob Bates. His mother was Lucia Jacobs. Mr. Bates is a farmer. He owns part of the shore of Webster lake, and has several summer cottages, and arrangements for a summer watering place, known as Bates' Grove. He was married in 1849 to Maria Davis, and has nine children: Hezekiah D., Martha J., Emma F., George H., Elmer E., Hattie S., Minnie L., Benjamin E. and Frank E., and one that died. He is a member of Webster Methodist Episcopal church and a republican.

William N. Bates, born in 1852 in Thompson, is a son of Walter, son of William, son of Elijah, son of Jacob Bates. His mother is Mary J., daughter of Thomas Elliott. He was educated in the schools of Thompson. Mr. Bates has been for several years associated with his father in the undertaking business, and a general cabinet and mechanical business, which his father has run at Thompson since 1841. Mr. Bates has been deputy sheriff and constable for about ten years, and has proved himself very efficient. In 1889 he captured and brought to justice a gang of thieves that had been defying the law in this town, and also in Massachusetts and Rhode Island for the past six years. He is a republican, and a member of the Thompson Congregational church. Mr. Bates' father was deputy sheriff twenty-six years prior to 1879.

Lemuel K. Blackmar, born in 1819, is a son of Joseph and grandson of Jacob Blackmar. His mother was Mahala, daughter of Ebenezer Munyan. He went to Providence at the age of sixteen, where he remained eleven years; since that time he has resided in Thompson. He had charge of the grist and saw mill at Grosvenor Dale for sixteen years, beginning November, 1864. He was appointed postmaster at Thompson in August, 1885, and since September of that year has filled that office. He was married in 1846 to Mary M., daughter of Edmund Cooper, of Wickford, R. I., and has three children: Martha (Mrs. John W. Ballard), Lewis E. and Mary E.

Lewis E. Blackmar, born in 1851, is a son of Lemuel K. Blackmar, mentioned above. In 1870 he went to Grosvenor Dale, where he learned the machinist's trade, continuing there until January, 1880, when he took charge of repairs at Mechanicsville mills, where he has been since that time. He was married in 1874 to Ida, daughter of William Cummins. They had one son, William E., who died in infancy. He is a republican, and a member of Quinebaug Lodge, No. 106, F. & A. M.

Joseph Bowdish, son of Nathaniel, was born in Smithfield, R. I., in 1810. He is a farmer, and has lived in Thompson since 1858. He was married in 1834 to Harriet Young, who died in 1855, leaving three children. He married in 1859 Sarah Jacobs. She died in 1887.

James Buckley was born in 1829 in England, and is a son of James Buckley. He came to America in 1848, and in 1850 to Thompson, where he was for several years employed in a cotton mill. Since 1872 he has kept a livery stable and hotel at North Grosvenor Dale. He was married in 1852 to Martha Hawthorn. They have eight children living and have lost one.

Benjamin Bugbee, born in 1814 in Pomfret, is a son of Leonard and Martha (Buck) Bugbee, and grandson of Elijah and Sarah (Bacon) Bugbee. He has lived in Thompson since about 1830. He was for about twenty-five years a shoemaker. He was station agent at Thompson about ten years, and for the past ten years has been a farmer. He was married in 1840 to Betsey Johnson and has one son, George D. He is a democrat, and a member of the Putnam Advent church.

Warren A. Burgess, born in 1842, is a son of Danforth Burgess. He served in the war of the rebellion in Company D,

18th Connecticut volunteers from August, 1862, to May, 1865. He is now a farmer. He was married in 1869 to Ellen M. Cope-land and has one daughter, Edith M. He is a member of the G. A. R. Post, of Putnam Lodge, No. 46, F. & A. M., and a republican.

Loren Chaffee, born in 1820, is a son of John, and grandson of Chester Chaffee. His mother was Lydia Elliott. He is a farmer and owns and occupies the homestead of his father. He was married in 1845 to Nancy C. Hall. They have five children: Ellis H., H. Marilla, John F., Emma L. and Lydia A. One died named Frederick. Mrs. Chaffee died in March, 1888. He is a member of the North Grosvenor Dale Methodist Episcopal church.

David Chase, born in Killingly, Conn., in 1848, is a son of Giles Chase mentioned in Killingly. Mr. Chase was educated at the schools of Killingly, and taught one term in that town. He came to Thompson in 1868, and in 1870 began his mercantile career as clerk in Mechanicsville. One year later he went into business for himself, and has been in business in the town continuously since that time. He has been in the store at Mechanicsville since 1874. He has been selectman two terms, and was representative in the legislature in 1881 and 1884. He was married in 1884 to Anna H., daughter of William I. Bartholomew. They have two children—Lillian F. and Julian D. Mr. Chase is a republican.

Fred. R. Child was born in 1856 in Thompson. He is a son of Otis, son of Nathaniel, son of Nathaniel Child. His mother was Elizabeth M. (Rice) Child. He went from Thompson to Webster at the age of eighteen, where he has been engaged in the baking business since that time. In September, 1884, he purchased his present business. The firm is F. R. Child & Co.

Otis N. Clark, born in 1828 in Woodstock, is a son of Lathrop and Lucy (Perrin) Clark. He was a mill operative and farmer in early life, and has been station agent at East Thompson on the N. Y. & N. E. R. R. for twenty years. He has been a local preacher in the Methodist church for twenty-four years. He was married in 1853 to Ardelia Benson, who died in 1862, leaving two children—Joseph B. and Fannie E. He was married in 1864 to Mary A. Wallace. They have four children—Carrie E., Arthur M., Jennie M. and Ethel W. He is a republican.

Frank O. Coman, born in 1853, is a son of John G. and grandson of Stephen Coman. His mother was Diana Tylor. Mr. Coman is a farmer and owns the farm where his father made brick for several years prior to his death in 1877. He was married in 1875 to Anna, daughter of Thomas Smith. They have two children living and have lost three.

Phineas Copeland, born in 1813, is a son of Abner and grandson of Phineas Copeland. His mother was Rebecca, daughter of William Towne. He is a farmer. He was married in 1835 to Emeline Upham, who died in July, 1883. He was married in February, 1886, to Mary L. Brown. He is a republican and a member of North Grosvenor Dale Methodist Episcopal church.

Japheth Corttis was born in 1824 in Thompson. He is a son of Japheth and he a son of Japheth Corttis, son of Francis Corttis. His mother was Clarissa (Comstock) Corttis. He is a farmer and cattle trader. He has been justice about thirty years, assessor and member of board of relief. He represented the town in the legislature one term. He was married in 1848 to Lucy Ann, daughter of James H. Davis. They have three children living: Mary L., E. Herbert and Elmer J. They have lost two boys: Frank and Frederick. Both sons are graduates of Amherst College. Mr. Corttis is a republican.

Albert Converse, born in 1818, is a son of Riel and grandson of Elijah Converse. He is a farmer and owns and occupies the homestead of his father and grandfather at Wilsonville. During Johnson's administration he was instrumental in the establishing of a post office at Wilsonville, and filled the office of postmaster for about eight years. He was married in 1840 to Rebecca T. Kelly, who died in September, 1878, leaving six children: Noel E., Helen M., Alice A., Ann R., Etta and Ada B., all of whom are married. Mr. Converse was married again in 1883 to Ruth A. Battey.

Jesse F. Converse, a son of Hezekiah and grandson of Chester Converse, was born in 1815 in Pomfret, and is a blacksmith by trade. He was in the war of the rebellion from August, 1862, to July, 1865, in Company D, 18th Connecticut volunteers. He was married in May, 1837, to Mercy Prince. She died in 1872, leaving one daughter, Mary E. He was married in 1873 to Mrs. Caroline Joslin, widow of John J. Joslin. He is a republican.

George S. Crosby was born in February, 1844. His father Stephen, was a son of Stephen, and grandson of Stephen

Crosby, who was born in 1734, served in the war of the revolution, and lost his life in the service. Mr. Crosby was in the Thompson Hotel with his father from 1859 until his father's death, in November, 1884. He afterward conducted the hotel until 1886, when he sold it and built him a fine residence nearby, and since that time has been a farmer. He is a director in the national bank at Thompson. He was married in 1879 to Mary B., daughter of Joseph D. Jacobs. They have one daughter, Sarah C. Mr. Crosby is a democrat, a member of the Central Congregational church, and clerk and treasurer of the same.

Nicholas Curtis, born in 1838 in Ireland, is a son of Thomas Curtis. Mr. Curtis came to this country thirty-five years ago. He is a farmer. He married Mary Mahr, and has three children—Frank, Henry and Lizzie. He is a member of the Catholic church.

Ebor Davis, born in 1814, is a son of Thomas, and grandson of Thomas Davis. His mother was Susan Vinner. He is one of four children—Rebecca (Mrs. William Jacobs), Sarah (deceased), Ellen B. and Ebor. Mr. Davis is a farmer, owns and occupies the homestead of his father and grandfather. He was married in 1841 to Chloe, daughter of James Cudworth. They have had two children—one that died in infancy, and Lucinda, who married Charles Howard. She died, leaving one son, who was drowned, aged 14 years.

Marcus Davis, born in 1830 in Thompson, is the oldest son of George, and grandson of Thomas Davis. His mother was Betsey Grover. He is a shoe cutter by trade, having followed the business for about thirty years. He owns and occupies the homestead farm of his father, and is now a farmer. He was in the war of the rebellion from January, 1864, to June, 1865, in Company F, 11th Connecticut volunteers. He was married in 1851 to Laura M., daughter of Wright Porter. They have four children: Arthur M., Lowell C., Ada A. and Cora M. (Mrs. E. C. Gammage). He is a democrat.

David E. Day, born in 1838 in Thompson, is a son of David, and grandson of "Deacon" Thomas, who was in the war of the revolution. David was a farmer. He married Louisa Cady, daughter of James Cady. They had two children, Louisa E. and David E., who is a farmer and lives on the homestead. The father died in 1873, aged 81 years.

Henry H. Dike.—In 1729 James Narramore came to what is now Thompson, near Brandy hill, and bought 63 acres of land. His daughter Mary, married James Dike in May, 1741, and to James and Mary was given the small farm at the death of Mr. Narramore. James Dike's son Thomas, married in December, 1770, Dorothy Davison. Their son Samuel, married Rachel Davis in 1808. She died, and he married her half sister Mary Davis in 1810. Their son George Dike, was born in February, 1815. He married Hannah Snow of Massachusetts. Mr. Dike died in 1879, having survived his wife seventeen years. His six children were: Samuel W., Henry H., Mary H., Harriet W., Ansel G. (deceased), and Josiah W. The oldest son is a clergyman, and the other two sons, with the two daughters, own and occupy the old homestead. Their 175 acre farm embraces the original 63 acres which has been in the family since 1729.

Horace Eaton, born in 1808 in Plainfield, is the eldest son of Ebenezer and grandson of "Captain" Ebenezer Eaton. He has been for many years a woolen mill operative. He was married in 1836 to Mahala Doty, who died in 1850. They had four children: George (deceased), Gilbert, Horace and Edward. He was married in 1852 to Eleanor Young, who died in 1880. Their two children were Albert (deceased) and Ellen (Mrs. Charles Kelly).

Joseph Egan, son of Thomas Egan, was born in 1835 in Ireland. He came to this country in 1851, and to Mechanicsville in 1861, since which time he has been overseer of finishing in the woolen mill. He was married in 1861, and has nine children. He is a member of West Thompson Catholic church.

Arad U. Elliott, born in 1824, is a son of John W., and grandson of David and Chloe (Wakefield) Elliott. His mother was Sophia, daughter of Chester and Caroline (Walker) Chaffee. He was a farmer until thirty years old, then began carriage making and blacksmithing, which he continues. He has held some of the town offices, and in 1889 represented the town in the legislature. He was married in 1848 to Abigail B. Kelton. She died in 1886, leaving three children—George A., Henry L. and Dyer S., one son having died. Mr. Elliott is a republican, a member of the Masonic order, and also of the Grange.

Francis N. Elliott is a son of Dyer N. Elliott, who was born in 1797, he a son of John and he a son of Francis Elliott. Dyer N. Elliott owns and occupies the farm where he has lived since

1798. He was married in 1825 to Eliza Greene. She died in March, 1884, leaving four children—Ophelia (Mrs. Albert Prince), Francis N., Mary (Mrs. J. Arnold) and Lucy (Mrs. Albert Farrows).

John Elliott, born in 1849 in Thompson, is a son of Marcus A. and grandson of John Elliott. His mother was Sarah C. Ormsbee. He was educated in the schools of Thompson, was fourteen years clerk in the Grosvenor Dale store, and for the last seven years of the time was also bookkeeper. In February, 1882, he came to North Grosvenor Dale, where he has since been a merchant. He has been postmaster since October, 1885. He was married in December, 1879, and has five children. Mr. Elliott is a democrat, and one of the directors in the Thompson Savings Bank.

Luther Elliott, born in 1833 in Thompson, is the eldest son of Loren and grandson of David Elliott. His mother was Caroline Chaffee. He is a carpenter by trade, and has a farm of sixty acres, where he now lives. He was married in 1854 to Mary M., daughter of George Kelton. They have two children—Nancy A. (Mrs. G. Tirrell) and Burton W.

Marcus A. Elliott, born in 1853, is a son of Marcus A. Elliott (mentioned above). He was educated in the schools of the town, and one year in the Woodstock Academy. He has been salesman in the Grosvenor Dale store eight years. Since 1882 he has been clerk and bookkeeper for John Elliott at North Grosvenor Dale, where he is assistant postmaster.

Smith Emerson was born in 1823 in Thompson. His father Orrin, was a son of Willard, and grandson of Simeon Emerson. Mr. Emerson is a farmer, and owns and occupies the residence which his father built in 1834. He was married in 1848 to Orrilla Taft. They have four children living: Defonzo, Ellen, Orrin and Cora, and they have lost four.

Albert Farrows, born in Thompson, June, 1841, is a son of Paine, and grandson of Ebenezer Farrows. His mother was Mary Briggs. He was educated in the schools of Thompson and at Dudley Academy. He is a farmer, but has taught more or less for thirty years. He was married in 1864, to Lucy A., daughter of Dyer N. Elliott, and has one son, Olin D. Mr. Farrows is a republican.

William A. Frederick was born in 1861 in Westford, Mass. He learned the machinist's trade in Westfield, Mass., and in May, 1887, he came to Grosvenor Dale, where he has been master

mechanic for the Grosvenor Dale Manufacturing Company since that time. He was married in 1886 to Clara B. Brayman.

Orton G. Greene was born in 1841 in Oakland county, Mich. He is a son of Johnson and grandson of Ebenezer Greene. He is a carpenter by trade. He was in the war of the rebellion from July, 1861, to November, 1865, in the 5th Michigan Infantry. In 1865 he was married to Harriet O., daughter of Samuel Greene. They have five children: Chauncey A., Benjamin P., Charles G., Harry R. and Cleon M.

Charles K. Griffith, son of Sidney Griffith, was born in 1837 in East Greenwich, R. I., came to Killingly in 1857, where he was engaged as mill operative for many years. He was overseer of spinning in "Himes'" mill (Killingly) for seventeen years. He came to Grosvenor Dale in January, 1888, where he has had charge of spinning. He was in the war of the rebellion from August, 1862, to July, 1865, in Company K, 18th Connecticut volunteers. He was married in 1860 to Ellen Jordan and has one son, Fred. N. He is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M.

Arthur H. Gulliver was born December 13th, 1856, in Norwich, Conn., and is a son of Doctor Daniel F. Gulliver. He graduated from Norwich Free Academy in 1873, and from Yale College in 1877; was with the Wauregan Manufacturing Company from 1878 to 1886, and in November, 1887, came to Grosvenor Dale, where he has superintended the mill since that time. He was married April 8th, 1885, to Frieda A., daughter of David Emerson. They have one daughter, Edith E. He is a republican.

Daniel E. Hickie, born in 1846 in Boston, is a son of John Hickie. He came to West Thompson from Boston in 1876, and for ten years he was a farmer, having bought a farm of 90 acres. In 1886 he began the baking business, which he has continued since that time, running two wagons on the road.

George B. Howard was born in 1850 in Baltimore, Md., and is a son of George F. Howard. He moved to Norwich from Baltimore when a small boy. He is a mason by trade, but has been engaged in the manufacture of small beer for the past eleven years in the summer season. He was married in 1878 to Ellen M., daughter of Nelson Frink, and has five children: Mabel C., George N., Byron E., Wesley W. and Ethel M. He is a member of the Broadway Congregational church of Norwich, a prohibitionist and a member of the Masonic order.

Thomas Hutchinson, born in 1850 in Plainfield, son of Christopher Hutchinson, came to Grosvenor Dale in 1876, and for eleven years was clerk for H. G. Ransom. In April, 1887, he, in company with John Elliott (firm of Thomas Hutchinson & Co.), bought out Mr. Ransom, and he has carried on a general mercantile business since that time. He was married in 1872 to Sarah Bragg. They have two children—Ida L. and Albert B.

Barton Jacobs was born in 1843 in Thompson. He is a son of Cyril, son of Amasa, son of John, son of Nathaniel, son of Joseph Jacobs. He is a farmer, owning the homestead of his father and grandfather. He was representative in the legislature in 1880, and has been justice since 1876. He was married in 1872 to Lucy M. Jenkins. They have five daughters: Lottie M., Laura E., Lucy J., Louisa A. and Ruth E. Mr. Jacobs is a republican and a member of Putnam Lodge, No. 46, F. & A. M.

Parley Jordan was born in 1793, a son of William Jordan and Comfort Palmer. Mr. Jordan was a natural mechanic, and he was for many years engaged in the manufacture of edged tools, especially axes. He died at his home in New Boston in 1874. He was five times elected to the legislature from Thompson. He was married to Sophia Phelps and had three daughters: Mary P., Frances E. and Ellen L. (Mrs. William Soule). Mr. Jordan was a republican.

George C. Johnson was born February 23d, 1822, in Pomfret. He is the oldest son of William Johnson and grandson of Smith Johnson. His mother was Betsey, daughter of George Cundall. He was in the war of the rebellion, in Company D, 18th Connecticut volunteers, from August, 1862, to June, 1865. He was a shoe manufacturer about twenty years, and since then has been a farmer. He was married in 1842 to Mary A. Wakefield, who died in 1844. He was married in 1850 to Jane Wilkes. They have one son, William S. He is a member of the West Thompson Methodist church, and a member of A. G. Warner Post, No. 54, G. A. R.

Albert E. Jones, born in 1853 in Dudley, Mass., is a son of Ebenezer Jones. In 1873 he began work in the Mechanicsville Mills, and since 1875 he has had charge of the dyeing department. He was married in 1881 to Henrietta J. Baker. They have one daughter, Mabel A. He is a republican and a member of Putnam Lodge, No. 46, F. & A. M.

Welcome B. Joslin was born in 1814 in Thompson. His father, Jesse, was a son of Edward and grandson of Israel Joslin. Mr.

Joslin is a farmer. He has filled the offices of selectman, assessor and justice, and in 1874 he represented the town in the legislature. He was married in 1840 to Ann G., daughter of Hail M. Jacobs. They have three children—Emily, Sarah and Charles A. Mr. Joslin is a member of the East Thompson Baptist church, and a republican.

John W. Kane, born in 1857 in New Jersey, is a son of Bernard Kane. He has been a cotton mill operative eighteen years. He came to North Grosvenor Dale in February, 1888, and since that time has had charge of spinning, spooling and warping for the manufacturing company. He had been overseer of spinning about eight years prior to coming to this place. He was married January 30th, 1880, to Kittie Molloy, and they have two boys—Walter and John.

James N. Kingsbury was born May 24th, 1835, in Webster, Mass. He is a son of Elisha, son of Ephraim, son of Jacob, son of Theodore Kingsbury. Mr. Kingsbury came from Massachusetts to Thompson when about eight years old, returning a few years later, and in Oxford began the business of shoe manufacturing, which he continued for twelve years in Massachusetts. In 1865 he came again to Connecticut, and after being interested in shoe manufacturing for three years, he went into the mercantile business, which he has followed since that time. He was postmaster at Thompson from 1869 to 1885; has been town clerk continuously since 1872; was elected to the house of representatives in 1888; has been chairman of the republican town committee for fourteen years; is vice-president and director of the Thompson Savings Bank and director of the National Bank. He was married in 1858 to Harriet T., daughter of Danforth Kinney. She died in 1884, leaving three children—Charles N., Alice and Myrtie. He was married again in 1885 to Anna, daughter of Joseph Towne.

Joshua P. Knight, born in 1821 in Dudley, Mass., is a son of Doctor Samuel P. Knight and grandson of Deacon Samuel Knight. His mother was Harriet, daughter of Doctor John Elliott Eaton. He received the principal part of his education in the schools of Portland, Maine, and began the practice of dentistry there, but shortly after he established himself at Webster, Mass., where he practiced about twenty-five years. About 1870 he retired from practice on account of ill health, and removed to Thompson, where he now lives. He was married June 15th,

1852, to Mary G., daughter of Lemuel Bixby. They have two children—Hattie E. and Charles L. Mr. Knight has been justice of the peace for several years. He is a republican.

Joseph Alfred Lagace was born August 27th, 1861, in St. Hyacinthe, Canada. He is the eldest son of Charles A. and Sophia (Scott) Legace. He received his classical education at St. Hyacinthe. In 1883 he began the study of medicine in Victoria College, Montreal, and after two years there he continued the study in the medical department of the Vermont University, Burlington, from which he graduated in 1887. The same year he began the practice of his profession at Ware, Mass., and a short time later he removed to North Grosvenor Dale, in the town of Thompson, where he has a large and lucrative practice. He was married in July, 1888, to Phœbe Laporte of Ware, Mass. He is a member of the New England French Medical Association, and a member of North Grosvenor Dale Catholic church.

L. P. Lamoureux was born in 1841 in the province of Quebec, Canada, and came to the States in 1851. He has lived seventeen years in Thompson. He has been contractor and builder for twenty years, and has had charge of nearly all the building that has been done at North Grosvenor Dale since he came here. He has been selectman two years, and has held other town offices as a republican. He was married in 1861 to Mary Garrey. They have eight children living, and have lost three. He is one of the directors of the Thompson Savings Bank, and a member of North Grosvenor Dale Catholic church.

George Law was born in 1844, in Southbridge, Mass., and is the oldest son of George H. Law, of Killingly. In May, 1862, he enlisted in the 9th Rhode Island Infantry for three months. In October, 1862, he enlisted again in the 2d Rhode Island Cavalry, and served until October, 1865. From 1865 to 1870 he was employed as a cotton mill operative, and since that time he has been a farmer. In March, 1887, he came to Thompson from Killingly, having previously bought a farm here. He was married in 1882 to Josephine Ross. They have one son, George E. Mr. Law is a republican.

Thomas McVeigh was born in 1859 in Ireland, and came to Rhode Island at the age of three years. He has been employed in cotton mills since fourteen years of age. He came to Grosvenor Dale in December, 1885, where he has had charge of spinning since that time. He is a member of the Episcopal church of Lonsdale, R. I.

Fred. A. Maryett, born in 1859 in Baltic, is a son of Thomas Maryett. He came to North Grosvenor Dale in 1876 and began to learn the trade of roller covering, and since 1883 he has had charge of the shop for the manufacturing company. He was married in 1881 to Carrie E. Chandler and has one daughter, Lulu J. He is a member of Putnam Lodge, No. 46, F. & A. M.

Horace Mathewson was born in 1841 in Blackstone, Mass., and is a son of Edwin Mathewson. He came to Connecticut in 1851. He was in the war of the rebellion from September, 1862, to July, 1865, as musician. He is a carpenter, having followed that trade for the last twenty years. He was married first in 1867 to Emma L. Joslin, who died in 1869, leaving one son, Horace E. He was married in 1871, but his wife died the same year. He married in 1873 Ellen C. Carrol. They have three children: Edwin, John and Lottie L.

Andrew Mills was born in 1813, and is the youngest son of John, whose father Nathaniel was a son of Nathaniel Mills, who came from Edinburgh, Scotland, with three brothers, to Massachusetts in 1690, and shortly after came to what is now Thompson. The farm which he bought at that time is still owned by Mr. Mills, who devotes most of his time to teaching music, both vocal and instrumental. Mr. Mills' mother was Lucina, daughter of Jesse Whipple, of Killingly, Conn. He was married December 31st, 1839, to Maria, daughter of Hezekiah Perry. They had nine children: Sarah E. (Mrs. L. E. Truesdale), Fitz Henry (deceased), Hezekiah P. (died in the war of the rebellion), Lucina W. (Mrs. John Low), Ossian Everett, John Andrew, Clinton J., Carrie M. and Arthur W. Mr. Mills is a republican and a member of the Congregational church.

George Mills was born in 1832 in Thompson, and is a son of Nathaniel, whose father, Nathaniel, was a son of Nathaniel Mills. Mr. Mills was engaged in mercantile business until about 1868, since which time he has been a farmer, owning and occupying the homestead of his father. He is a democrat.

Joseph Mills was born in 1836 in Thompson. He is a son of Frederick, son of John, son of Nathaniel, son of Nathaniel Mills. His mother is Maria, daughter of James Cady. Mr. Mills is the only survivor of three children. He is a farmer. He was married in 1862 and has three children living: Wilfred J., Augusta M. and Leonard J. They lost two: Etta M. and Grace E. Mr. Mills is a republican.

Calvin M. Munyan, born in 1850 in Killingly, is a son of Irving, and grandson of David Munyan. His mother was Almira (Eddy) Munyan. Mr. Munyan is a farmer. He was married in 1873 to Ella J., daughter of Welcome Bates. They have two children—Florence I. and Claude M.

Helen A. Munyan is a daughter of John, son of Ezra, son of Joseph, son of Edward Munyan. Her mother was Ruth Warfield. John Munyan was born in 1805 and died in 1884. He was a carpenter by trade.

James M. Munyan was born in 1825 in Thompson. He is a son of Hosea, son of Isaac, son of Israel, son of Joseph, son of Edward Munyan, who came from England to Salem, Mass., and about 1718 he came to what is now Thompson, near the Rhode Island line, and bought a farm which is still in the family. Mr. Munyan's mother was Sarah, daughter of Jacob Blackmar, who was a revolutionary soldier. Mr. Munyan is a farmer. He was married in 1856 to Harriet, daughter of John Wakefield. They have four children: Oscar, Sarah A., Clara I. (Mrs. J. A. Armstrong) and Fred. A.

Oscar Munyan was born in 1859 in Thompson, son of James M. Munyan. He was educated at the schools of Thompson, then in Franklin two years, and in the Institute of Technology in Boston one year. He was engaged in mercantile business until 1886, and since that time he has been a farmer on the Munyan homestead, owning about 100 acres of the original purchase of Edward Munyan of 1718. He was married in 1880 to Martha A. Card. He has been several years chairman of the democratic town committee.

George H. Nichols was born in April, 1837. He is a son of Captain George P., he a son of Elijah, and he a son of Elijah Nichols. His mother was Mary, daughter of Thomas Alton. Mr. Nichols is a farmer, occupying the farm where his father lived from about 1800 until his death, in July, 1877, aged 82 years. He and also his father were members of the legislature from Thompson. Mr. Nichols was for many years a cattle buyer. He was representative in the legislature in 1881 and 1883. He is president of the Thompson Savings Bank, and vice-president of the Thompson National Bank. He is also president of the Wauregan Brick Company. He was married in 1857 to Mary A., daughter of James Johnson. Their six children were named: Lucy A., Mary (deceased), George E., Warren F., Earl

P. and John M. His wife died in 1879, and he married in 1887, Martha E., daughter of Jeremiah Olney. He is a republican.

Cornelius O'Leary was born in Ireland, came to America in 1852, and in 1865 to Mechanicsville, and for the past fourteen years he has been boss spinner for the woolen mill. He was married in 1853, and has two children: T. J., who was for a time a member of the Windham county bar, and Mary E.

Jane E. Palmer was born in East Thompson, and was married in 1858 to William H. Palmer. He was in the war of the rebellion in Company I, 15th Massachusetts volunteers, holding the rank of sergeant. He was killed in the battle of the Wilderness. They had two children—William F., who is principal of the Bristol Academy, and Parker H., who died in infancy.

Henry Paradis was born in 1848 in St. Guillaume, Canada. He came to the states in 1867. He was ten years in Baltic as clerk, and then he had charge of a store at North Grosvenor Dale eleven years for J. H. Woisard. In August, 1888, he bought out Mr. Woisard, and continues the business under the style of H. Paradis & Bros. He was married in 1870 to Olivene Fortier. They have thirteen children. He is a member of the North Grosvenor Dale Catholic church.

Simon Parkhurst was born in 1842 in Norwich, Conn. At the age of 18 years he went to Brooklyn, Conn., and began to learn the tinsmith's trade, and later went to Stonington, where he finished his apprenticeship. In 1876 he came from Providence to North Grosvenor Dale, and opened a hardware store and tinsmith shop, which he has continued since that time. He was married in 1876 to Alice L. Peckham, and has three children living, having lost three. He is a republican.

Amoret Perrin is a daughter of Jonathan, son of Jonathan, son of Jonathan, son of Thomas, son of John, son of William Nichols, who was born in 1599, settled in Danvers, Mass., in 1638, and had four children. Her father Jonathan Nichols, was several years town clerk and judge of probate, and was representative in the legislature for nearly twenty years. She was married in April, 1832, to Joseph M. Perrin, son of Noah Perrin. He died in December, 1861. He had been a school teacher in his younger life, but later a farmer and surveyor.

Elijah C. Perrin, born in 1810, is a son of Hezekiah and Betsey Perrin. He is a farmer. He was married in 1842 to Dolly, daughter of Jeremiah Shumway. He is a republican, and a

member of the North Grosvenor Dale Methodist Episcopal church.

Joseph S. Perry, born in 1830 in Bridgewater, Mass., is a son of Joseph S. Perry. He came to Windham county in 1831, where he has since resided. He is a farmer and owns the homestead of David Towne. He was in the war of the rebellion three months in 1861, in Company K, 2d Connecticut volunteers. In August, 1862, he reentered the service in Company I, 16th Connecticut volunteers, serving until May, 1864. He was married in 1854 to Lucy, daughter of George Town. He is a staunch temperance man and a prohibitionist. He is a member of the Thompson Baptist church.

Ebenezer Phelps, born in December, 1808, is a son of Ebenezer and Polly (Russell) Phelps. He was a blacksmith and edge tool maker at New Boston for many years. He was married in 1832 to Mary Ann Ellwell. They have two children—Henry R. and Mary Edna. He is a democrat.

George Phillips was born in 1856 in England, came to Connecticut in 1859, and was for seventeen years employed in the cotton mill at Williamsville. Since 1884 he has been overseer of weaving at Grosvenor Dale. He was married in 1877 to Cora Buchanan. She died in 1884, and he was married in 1886 to Alice Tucker. They have one son, George H. He is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M.

Charles A. Potter, born in 1849 in Southbridge, Mass., is a son of William B. Potter. He was educated in the schools of Southbridge, came to North Grosvenor Dale in 1873, and in 1882 opened a market here, which he has run since that time. He deals in meat, canned goods, fruit, confectionery, etc. He was married in 1870 to Martha H. Chandler and has three children: Alice M., Louva C. and Floyd.

George A. Putney, son of Harvey Putney, was born in 1844 in Southbridge, Mass. He began to work in mills in 1861, came to New Boston in 1865, and two years later took charge of carding and spinning and still fills that place. He was married in 1867 to Sarah, daughter of Danford D. Burgess. They have five children: Olin H., Fitz L., Vesta B., Lena B. and Ala A. Mr. Putney is a republican.

James Randall, son of Daniel Randall, was born in 1828 in Thompson. He is a farmer, living on his father's homestead. He was married in 1849 to Ursula, daughter of Obadiah Ross and granddaughter of Lemuel Ross.

Marcus L. Randall, born in 1823 in Thompson, is a son of Joseph and Nancy Randall. He is a machinist by trade, but for the last seventeen years has been a farmer. He was married in 1841 to Olive Chamberlin, who died in 1881. Their four children are: William, Edgar M., Sylvia and Mary V.

John S. Richardson, born March 31st, 1823, is a son of William and Nancy (Arnold) Richardson, the latter a daughter of Daniel Arnold. Mr. Richardson was a mill operative for about forty years, and was overseer of carding twenty-one years at Perryville. Since 1880 he has been a farmer. He was married in 1845 to Sarah K., daughter of Thomas Benson. They had five children: Estelle, Alice (deceased), Edwin, Ada and Grace. He is a republican and a member of Quinnatisset Grange, No. 65, P. of H.

John T. Richardson, born in 1835 in Massachusetts, is a son of Mowry, and grandson of Joseph Richardson. His mother was Orrilla Thayer. Mr. Richardson is a farmer. He was married to Helen, daughter of Alfred Merrick. They have one son, Fred. I., and one daughter, Louisa A. (deceased). Mr. Richardson is a democrat.

David N. Robbins, born in 1831 in Thompson, is a son of Ithiel, and grandson of John Robbins. His mother was Hannah Green. He is a farmer. He enlisted in Company F, Battery 1st Heavy Artillery, Massachusetts volunteers, and served from August, 1864, to June, 1865. He was married in 1854 to Martha E. Joslin, and has had three children: Edna L., Ida M. and Albro N. Mr. Robbins is a republican, and has been a member of the East Thompson Methodist Episcopal church for forty years.

Ithiel D. Robbins, born in 1853 in Thompson, is a son of Ithiel Robbins, born in 1804, and died in 1883. The latter was the son of John, and he the son of Samuel Robbins. Ithiel married in 1829 Hannah Green, who is now living. They had twelve children, eight living: David Nelson, Elizabeth, Phœbe, John W., Luther D., Julia A., Hannah T. and Ithiel D., who lives on the homestead with his mother.

Allen Monroe Robinson, born in 1829 in Thompson, is a son of Joseph Robinson and brother of Oscar Robinson. He has been for twenty years cutter for a shoe manufacturing establishment. He bought what is called the "Lake View" farm in 1882, and has been a farmer since that time. He was married in 1853 to

Emily A. Vinton. She died in 1868, leaving one child, Clarence I. He was married again in 1869 to Mary M. Gerstle. He is a republican.

Oscar Robinson was born in 1840 in Thompson. He is a son of Joseph, son of Aaron, son of Paul, son of George Robinson. His mother was Mary A. Cutler. He is the youngest of six children. He is a farmer and market gardener, owning and occupying the Robinson homestead. In 1861 he was married to Jane M. Sheldon. He is a republican.

Isaac Sherman, son of Zephaniah Sherman, was born in 1817 in Eastford. His mother was Betsey Alton. Mr. Sherman was a merchant and shoe manufacturer at East Thompson for several years, after which he spent about seventeen years as a Methodist preacher. He retired to East Thompson a short time since. He represented the town in the legislature in 1861. He has been married three times, his present wife being Mary (Sheldon) Sherman. They have three children: Winnie D., Mary B. and Harlo T. He has one son, James, by a former marriage. He is a republican.

Albert Shumway, born in 1831, is a son of Sherman and Huldah (Elliott) Shumway. He is a farmer. He was married April 28th, 1856, to Dolly F. Corbin. She died in August, 1873. He was married in May, 1877, to Fanny K., daughter of David and Harriet (Sumner) Nichols. He is a republican.

Elliott Shumway, born in 1827, is a son of Sherman and grandson of Jeremiah Shumway. His mother was Huldah, daughter of Roger Elliott. Mr. Shumway is a farmer, and owns and occupies the Elliott homestead. He was married in 1873 to Susan F. Crain. He is a republican and a member of Thompson Congregational church.

William T. Shumway, born in Thompson in 1829, is a son of Hammond, and grandson of Jeremiah Shumway. Mr. Shumway went from Thompson to Webster in 1845, as clerk in a store, and three years later began as a merchant, and from 1848 to the present has been in the trade there. He was married in 1851 to Jane E. Keith, and has two daughters.

Warren Spencer, born in 1857, at Grosvenor Dale, is a son of Russel and Laura (Greene) Spencer. He was educated in the district schools of the town, and has been employed by the Grosvenor Dale Manufacturing Company for sixteen years.

For the past eleven years he has been overseer of the cloth room. He was married in May, 1880, to Alice Bixby.

Richard B. Stroud born in 1820, in Stafford, Conn., is the youngest of nine children and the only survivor. His father was Richard, son of Richard and Elizabeth (Billings) Stroud. His mother was Rhoda (Harvey) Stroud. Mr. Stroud came to Thompson in 1868, where he has been a farmer since that time. He was married to Charlotte E. Leech, who died. They had three children, all of whom are deceased. He was married again to Minerva Crawford, who died, leaving two children: Alice L. and Charles C. He married in 1878 his present wife, who is a daughter of Gardiner Rouse. He is a member of Putnam Lodge, No. 46, F. & A. M., and of Quinnatisset Grange, No. 65, P. of H.

Reverend Thomas Tallman, was born June 12th, 1815, in Middle Haddam, Conn. After he graduated from college he was in Yale Theological school from 1837 to 1840. From 1844 to 1861, he was settled over the Congregational church of Scotland, Windham county. From 1861 to 1863, he was settled in Groton. In 1864 he came to Thompson, where he resided until his death in October, 1872. He was married in 1842, to Miss Hazelton, who died in 1860, leaving two children: Susan M. and James H. He married for his second wife, Hannah C. Graves, in 1864. Their two children are Walter and Frances C.

Byron S. Thompson, born in 1845, in Smithfield, R. I., is a son of Hiram Thompson. He was educated in the schools of Smithfield, and a short time at Andover, Mass. Mr. Thompson came from Rhode Island to Thompson in 1864, and after a three years' clerkship at North Grosvenor Dale he went away, returning in 1876 and operating a general store until 1882, when he sold to John Elliott & Co. One year later he bought another store where he has been since that time. He was assessor two terms, and in 1887 he represented the town in the legislature. He was married in 1868 to Mary Copeland. They have three children: Bertha N., Ada P., and Harman A. Mr. Thompson served three months in Company E, 9th Rhode Island volunteers in 1862.

Oscar Tourtellotte, born in 1839 in Thompson, is a son of Joseph, whose father, Isaac, was a son of Abraham Tourtellotte, who was of Huguenot descent. His mother was Amy, daughter of Jesse Joslin. His education was finished in Nichols' Academy, Dudley, Mass. He was brought up a farmer. In October,

1861, he enlisted in Company D, 25th Massachusetts volunteers, and served three years. In the history of the regiment it says: "Mr. T. alone with his rifle captured and took prisoners first lieutenant, sergeant and 24 privates belonging to the 161st N. C. V." He also had two brothers in the war of the rebellion. In 1876 he left his farm and opened a grain store and insurance office at North Grosvenor Dale. He sold the grain business to M. A. Covell, and now carries on the insurance business and does legal writing. He was a member of the legislature in 1865 and 1866, and a member of congress in 1876. He is now first selectman. He has been trial justice since 1868. He was married in February, 1861, to Laura A. Carpenter. They have three sons. He is a republican and trustee and class leader in the Methodist church at North Grosvenor Dale.

Reuben M. Towne, born in 1831, is a son of Sherman, son of Joseph, son of Joseph, son of Joseph Towne, who came to this town in 1733. His mother was Mary Ann E., daughter of Reuben Mathewson. Mr. Towne is a farmer. He was married July 31st, 1888, to Atla A., daughter of John G. Coman.

John Trudeau was born in Canada in 1846, came to the United States in 1854, has been a painter for twenty-two years and has had charge of painting at North Grosvenor Dale for eight years. He was married in 1867 and has one son, Henry. He is a member of the North Grosvenor Dale Catholic church.

Jesse Tucker, son of Samuel P. Tucker, was born December, 1829, in Glocester, R. I. In May, 1846, he came to North Grosvenor Dale (then Masonville) as a mill operative for fifteen years. In 1861 he began the carpenter's trade, which he has followed since that time. He was married in 1850 to Sarah Gilmore. They have had two children: Charles A. and Emily, deceased.

Dyer A. Upham, born in 1824, is the youngest son of Dyer, and grandson of Nehemiah Upham. His mother was Esther, daughter of Daniel Arnold. Mr. Upham was a merchant at Wiltonville about fifteen years prior to 1857. Since that time he has been a farmer and breeder of poultry. He claims to be the originator of the Plymouth Rock breed of fowls, and was the first exhibitor at Worcester in 1867. He represented the town in the legislature in 1862, and has filled many of the town offices as a republican. He was married in 1849 to Lucy Stone. They have three children: Leroy J., Earl H. and Burton S. Mrs. Upham died in 1885.

John J. Vinton, born in 1843 in Woodstock, is a son of Hosea, and grandson of Timothy Vinton. He was a farmer in Woodstock until April, 1885, when he came to Quinebaug, where he has run a meat market since that time. In 1887 he added groceries to his business. He was married in 1863 to Abbie M. Whitney. They have eight children living; Myrtie M., Grace L., William J., Martha U., Carrie D., George W., Frederick M. and Byron F.; and two that died in infancy.

Edwin T. White, born in 1834 in Vermont, was a farmer eight years in Vermont, and in 1869 he came to Thompson, where he lived until his death, in May, 1885. He was a republican in politics, and represented the town in the legislature in 1882, and held some of the town offices. He was married in 1860 to Sarah L., daughter of Winsor Bates. They had two sons—Edwin W. and Elmer Leroy. They lost two daughters—Gertrude I. and Bertha E.

Marcus C. Whitney, born in September, 1851, is a son of Micah Whitney and Elizabeth, a daughter of Winthrop Chandler. He was educated in the schools of Thompson and in Nichols' Academy, Dudley. He is a farmer. He is a member of East Woodstock Congregational church, and a member of Senexet Grange, P. of H.

Thomas Wilbur, son of William Wilbur, was born in 1822 in South Kingstown, R. I. He began as mill operative at Harrisville, R. I., at the age of fifteen, where he remained until 1854, when he came to Grosvenor Dale as overseer of spinning for 10 years; then he came to North Grosvenor Dale, where he was superintendent until 1882, and since that time he has lived practically retired. He represented the town in the legislature in 1883. He was postmaster at North Grosvenor Dale from 1878 to 1885. He is a republican. He was married in 1847 to Sarah, daughter of Wanton Briggs. They have one son, James T.; they lost two children—Leander J., who was a soldier in the war of the rebellion, and Grace.

William R. Williams, born December, 1858, in Woodstock, is a son of Harden and grandson of Arthur Williams. His mother was Sarah Caulkins. In 1886 he opened a general store at West Thompson, where he has continued the business since that time. He was married in May, 1883, to Carrie L., daughter of Hiram M. Jencks, of Dayville. He is a republican.

Alonzo O. Woodard was born in 1834 in Thompson. His father, Daniel, was a son of Comfort and grandson of Jesse Woodard, who married Sarah Starr in 1752. His mother is Amy Gleason. Mr. Woodard has been a farmer for the past twenty years, and was formerly a shoemaker. He has been justice for the last twenty years, and has held several other town offices. He was married in 1860 to Mary J., daughter of Harvey Davis. They have five children: Allen R., Hattie J. (Mrs. J. F. Miller, M. D., of Putnam), Mary F., Ida S. and Edith A. He is a republican and a member of East Thompson Methodist Episcopal church.

PUTNAM.

Rhodes G. Allen was born in Providence, R. I., June 5th, 1819, and is the fifth son of Rhodes G. and Rebecca C. (Bowen) Allen. He received a common school education, learned the machinist's trade at Harrisville, town of Woodstock, in 1836, and remained there till 1846, when he went to Whitingville, Mass., but returned to Putnam in 1847. He engaged in the repairing business at the different mills, and was for twelve years employed by the Morse Mills Company. He then bought a farm, which he has conducted since. His first wife was Lucretia A. Aldrich, by whom he had one child, Lucretia M., who died at the age of 16 years. His second wife was Almira L., daughter of Deacon Elliott Carpenter.

Andrew R. Arnold, born in Warwick, R. I., April 22d, 1810, the eldest son of Philip and Catharine (Searls) Arnold, came with his father to Woodstock, Conn., in 1819. He was a machinist by trade and invented a number of valuable patents. He worked at Providence, R. I., Hartford, Conn., and Newark, N. J., at the latter place being 24 years connected with the Manhattan Fire Arms Company. He came to Putnam in 1883, where he died October 11th, 1884. He married Mary A., daughter of Captain John Steib, of Providence, R. I.

William H. Anderson, born in Brooklyn, N. Y., June 10th, 1845, is the eldest son of Joseph and Sophia (Reynolds) Anderson. Owing to the death of his father when William H. was 11 years old, his mother returned to her native county, Windham, and located at Woodstock, but came to Putnam in 1858. At the age of 14 he was employed in the cotton mills. At the breaking out of the war he enlisted in the 18th Connecticut volunteers for

three years, and was eighteen months in rebel prisons. After the war he engaged in farming, and in 1881 started a tallow rendering establishment in Putnam, reducing the trimmings of beef and pork to tallow and lard, the bones of the animals being ground for chicken feed and fertilizer. He married Cora H. Green, and they have had six children: William H., Cora Lillian, Musa E., Hattie S., Mamie E. and Henrietta D.

The Ballard family in this county is descended from William Ballard, who came to Lynn, Mass., in 1630, and the first ones to locate in Windham county were two brothers, William and Lynde, who were sons of Zaccheus and Elizabeth (Valentine) Ballard. Lynde was born in Oxford, Mass., May 15th, 1774, and died June 7th, 1825. December 4th, 1794, he married Polly Bates, by whom he had seven children: John Bates, died in Colchester, Conn.; Nancy (deceased), married John George, of Thompson; Polly (deceased), married Jacob Tourtellotte; Winthrop Hilton, Valentine and Hamilton, all living in Thompson; and Martha, (deceased), married Frederick Miles, of Thompson. Lynde's second wife was Amy Green, by whom he had four children: Sarah Rebecca, widow of Samuel Spaulding, of Putnam; Salem Lynde, Zaccheus, lives in Thompson, and Elizabeth, wife of Albertus Bruce, of Pomfret. Salem Lynde was born in Thompson May 8th, 1820. His first wife was Freeloove Youngs, and his second wife is Harriet Scranton, a native of Woodstock, whom he married July 12th, 1846, and by whom he has four children: John Lynde, born in Woodstock January 19th, 1849, married Sallie Farquhar October 22d, 1873, and has two children, John Hudson and Sumner Salem, and is engaged in the sewing machine business at Wheeling, W. Va.; Emma Luella; Louis S., resides in Worcester, Mass., and Arthur S. W., resides at Putnam.

Marvin Barrett, son of Edward I. Barrett, was born in Woodstock, Conn., May 18th, 1826. At the age of twenty he learned the machinist's trade, which he followed for five years at Harrisville. In 1851 he went to Worcester, Mass., where he remained till 1871. He then engaged in farming in Scotland, and came to Putnam in 1876, where he has since resided. He married first, Susan J. Wheeler; second, Lois L. Morgan, widow of Sanford K. Palmer.

Willis Bowen was born in Rhode Island, January 8th, 1808, and came to Thompson, Conn., in 1848. He married L. Maria Ald-

rich, and had nine children: Francis, resides in Portchester, N. Y.; Lawson O.; Henry B., lives at Taftville, Conn.; Almira, died at the age of 19 years; Eliza, died aged 3 years; Amasa, died aged 2 years; an infant; Martha (deceased), married Smith Hall; and Sarah Maria, lives at Middletown, Conn. Willis Bowen died October 14th, 1876. Lawson O. was born in West Glocester, R. I., June 12th, 1834. He was brought up on a farm, and at the age of twelve was put to work in the mills, which he followed eleven years. He engaged in farming in Thompson in 1856, and removed to Putnam in 1859, where he has since resided, excepting four years in Thompson. He was selectman in 1888. He married Marcia A. Bump, and had three children: One died in infancy; Merritt Olin, resides in New Haven, Conn.; and Walter Allen.

Benjamin Brayton, son of George and Nancy (Randall) Brayton, was born in Johnston, R. I., April 18th, 1811. Owing to the death of his father, his mother removed to what is now Putnam in 1815. He was a boot maker by trade, but in his later years carried on farming. He died August 3d, 1886. He married Almira, daughter of Oliver Torrey, and had one child, Caroline M., who married Joseph Waterman Fisher, son of Willard Danielson and Olive (Brayton) Fisher, born in Killingly July 16th, 1848.

Elijah Carpenter, son of Elijah and Abby Carpenter, was born in Smithfield, R. I., and came to Putnam in 1851, where he died March 30th, 1869. He married Mary Ann Green and had three children: Abby J., wife of H. O. Preston, of Putnam; Adelbert, resides in Putnam; and Walter S., born in Greenville, R. I., August 24th, 1848, married Mary S. Ballou, and has no children. He was a member of the legislature of 1889-90.

Nelson Carpenter, born in Smithfield, R. I., May 1st, 1809, is the eldest son of family of twelve children of Elijah and Abby Carpenter. He is a mason by trade, and came to Putnam in 1859. He has been married four times. His first wife was Mercy N. Brayton, by whom he had four children: Mary Jane died aged 20 years; Emeline married William Phelps of Putnam; Nancy Maria, married; and Nelson, died in infancy.

David Chandler was a resident of Pomfret, Conn., and had a son Silas, who had a son, Charles C., who married Anna Cleveland, and had six children: Hannah, married Jason W. Fairfield; Mary, died aged 20 years; Lucius L., Louisa, widow, resides in Illinois; Palmer, died in Pomfret, Conn., and Albert C., lives in

Woodstock. Lucius L., born in Pomfret, August 5th, 1809, married Louisa R. Clark. They have one child living, Louise, wife of William Moulton of Boston, who was born in Pomfret, Conn., April 10th, 1834, and is the noted authoress. Lucius L. died October 25th, 1879.

Danforth Chase, son of Cromwell, was born in Killingly, Conn., August 13th, 1831, married Ellen Payson, and had two children: William D. and Ellen, deceased, married George Dresser of Putnam. Danforth Chase died August 13th, 1866. William D. was born in Killingly February 10th, 1861, married Mary Buck, and has four children: Ellen S., Abbie L., Ida M. and Mary A. Mr. Chase is a farmer and came to Putnam to reside in 1888.

Albert A. Clark was born in Lyme (now North Lyme), Conn., February 15th, 1835. He is the eldest son in a family of eleven children of John G. and Jane (Tucker) Clark. He is a carpenter by trade. He worked nine years in Salem, Conn., then became a member of the 18th Connecticut volunteers. After the war he worked at his trade in Bosworth, Conn., and came to Putnam in the spring of 1874, where he followed his trade four years. Since then he has had charge of the poor houses of Thompson and Putnam, eight years in the former place and the balance of the time the latter. He married Alice P. Brown of Montville, Conn., and has three children: Annie L., wife of Delbert Fairfield, of New Haven, Conn.; Rachel E., wife of M. O. Bowen, of New Haven, Conn., and George A.

John D. Converse was born in Thompson, December 16th, 1845, and is the third son of Alfred and Eliza (Hutchins) Converse. His grandfather was John D. He was educated at Thompson Academy, and has always been a farmer. He was county commissioner from 1880 to 1886, and member of legislature from Thompson in 1878. He married Caroline Sumner of Thompson, and has no children.

Artemas H. Corbin, eldest son of Jedediah and Hannah Corbin, was born in Charlton, Mass., January 24th, 1831. He worked at farming until he came to Thompson, in the winter of 1849. He learned shoemaking, which he has since followed. He came to Putnam in 1853, and worked at his trade till 1865, and then engaged in manufacturing shoes himself, which he followed till 1881, when he engaged in the manufacture of women and misses' slippers and buskins, also woolen lined shoes for women. He served as selectman in 1889.

Ebenezer Covell had the following family: Sampson, Ziba, Oliver, Joseph, Benjamin and Abigail, who married Silas Tucker. Sampson had a son Arba, who married for his first wife a Burgess, by whom he had two children, viz., Sampson and Mary, who married Waldo Bartlett. Sampson (son of Sampson) was born in Killingly, in February, 1809, and married Lillis Bartlett for his first wife, by whom he had one child Arba, who resides in Killingly. His second wife was Lois Elliott, by whom he had one child, Albigence E. His third wife was Sarah Elliott, by whom he had four children: Benjamin, resides in Webster, Mass.; Louisa, wife of David Clark of Putnam; Esther, wife of George Locke of Putnam, and Elizabeth, wife of Rufus Chase of Killingly. He became a resident of Putnam in 1859, where he died in January, 1882. Albigence E. (son of Sampson), born February 26th, 1841, married Mahala J. Chase, and had four children: Elizabeth, died aged five years; Marcus, lives in Thompson; Horace E. and Willis. Mr. Covell has been a resident of Putnam since 1860.

Asa Cutler, the son of Isaac, married Mary Cady, and among his children were: Lodema, Sarah, Hannah, Mary, Benjamin, Asa and David. Benjamin (son of Asa) married Olive Buck, and his children were: Lodema, married William Barstow of Killingly; Asa; Olive, married Davis Torrey of Killingly; Dan; Mary, died young; George, died at Southbridge, Mass.; Sarah, married George Bartlett of Webster, Mass.; and Mary, married Joseph Robinson of Thompson. Dan, born October 26th, 1793, married Amy Bussey of Rhode Island, and their children were: William Henry, lives in Killingly; Caroline Maria (deceased), married Daniel Harris of Rhode Island; Lucretia Dexter, wife of Francis N. Aldrich of Stanton, Iowa; Benjamin and Horace Adams, both died in Killingly; Augustus, killed in the late war; Frederick; Mary Olive, widow of Elisha Davison, resides in Putnam; and Amy Ann, wife of William H. Sharpe of Putnam. Dan died July 10th, 1881. Frederick (son of Dan) born in Killingly, August 25th, 1829, married Georgiana Stead, and has eight children: Edward R., Dan, George M., Ira, Lizzie, Arthur, Alice B. and Minnie F. Asa (son of Benjamin), born in Killingly, June 8th, 1788, married Sarah Torrey, and had five children: Lucy T., wife of Horace Read of Putnam; Hobart C., died in Putnam; Tama, widow of Doctor Plimpton, resides in Putnam; Edward Adams, resides in Providence, R. I.; and Susan Davison, widow of Day Harris, lives at Putnam. Asa was en-

gaged in cotton manufacturing at Oxford, Mass., but returned to Putnam in 1847, where he died March 7th, 1859.

Joseph W. Cutler, eldest son of Job H. and Mary E. (Willey) Cutler, was born in Central Village, Conn., February 5th, 1841. At the age of 22 years he was appointed deputy sheriff, which office he filled for nine years. He was engaged in farming for the next three years, came to Putnam in 1875, and in 1879 engaged in the wholesale and retail wood and coal business, which he now follows. He was selectman in the town of Plainfield two years, also constable. He married Mary, daughter of Elisha Buck, and has one daughter, Annie G.

The Dresser family was originally settled in Roxbury, Mass., in January, 1639, by John Dresser, who had a family of six children, the eldest of whom was John, who married Martha Thorld. He had a family of eight children, and Jonathan, his second son, was born in January, 1673 or 1674. He had seven children, of whom Thomas, born November 7th, 1704, and who married Mary Chandler, of Andover, Mass., was the first one of the name to come to Windham county. He had a family of eight children, and his son Nathan, born January 12th, 1738, married Orindia Sessions and had the following family: Thomas, died at the age of 21 years; Nathan, died in Pomfret; Mary, Abel, Elfreyda, Huldah, Serena, Esther, Jonathan, died in Homer, N. Y.; Comfort, died in Vermont, and Orindia. Nathan died February 3d, 1805. Abel (son of Nathan) was born January 26th, 1775, and died October 27th, 1859. He married Sally Brown and their children were: Horace, died in New York state; Emily, died unmarried; Joseph A., died in Monson, Mass; Sally, deceased, married John W. Adams, of Pomfret; Nancy, deceased, married Hiram Waldo, of Canterbury, Conn; Abel and Ezra, born April 14th, 1817, married three times, to Marcia Carpenter, Ellen Payson and Jennie Dodge. He has one child by his first wife, Frances, widow of John Harrington, who resides with him and has one child, Myrtie.

Lucius Fitts, second son of Daniel and Abigail Fitts, was born in Pomfret, Conn., June 28th, 1810. His father was a tanner, currier and shoemaker. On coming of age he engaged in farming in his native town, which he followed till 1875, when he removed to Putnam. He married Adaline S., daughter of Ephraim Tucker.

Shrimpton Gallup, fourth son of Martin and Ruth Gallup, was born in Brooklyn, Conn., February 14th, 1818. At the age of eight he commenced working in the factory, which he followed until the breaking out of the war, when he enlisted in the 18th Connecticut volunteers, and was mustered out of the service May 4th, 1865, having lost his left leg at the battle of Piedmont, Va. He has been a resident of Putnam since 1828. His first wife was Amanda Brown, by whom he had one child, Andrew, a soldier in the late war. His second wife was Hannah Aldrich.

John H. Gardner, second son of Horace and Eliza C. (Annis) Gardner, was born in Manchester, Conn., November 25th, 1837. At the age of five his parents removed to Stafford Springs, where he received a common school education. At the age of sixteen he entered a general store, where he remained two years, then went to Hartford and was engaged in the dry goods business for fourteen years. In January, 1869, he came to Putnam and opened a dry goods store on the east side of the railroad, being the only store at that time in that side of the village. He sold out in January, 1879, and retired from active business. He was elected president of the Putnam Savings Bank in July, 1880, and has been director of the First National Bank since 1877. He married Mary Wadsworth.

Augustus Houghton, second son of Abel and Lucretia (Phelps) Houghton, was born in Princeton, Worcester county, Mass., November 18th, 1822. He received a common school education. His father was a farmer, and he passed his life till the age of 12 years on the farm. At that age he entered a cotton factory in West Boylston, Mass., and at the age of eighteen he engaged in business for himself at Holden, Mass. He was at this point three years, and for the next four years with the Smithville Manufacturing Company. The next seventeen years he was superintendent of an envelope factory at Worcester, Mass. He then came to East Putnam and was till 1882 engaged in manufacturing yarn. His first wife was Eliza Roper, of Princeton, who bore him one child, Cora, wife of Albert Whiting, of Smithville, Mass. His second wife was Elizabeth Hawkins, by whom he has had two children—Alexander A. and Addie E., wife of Dewitt C. Parks, of Putnam.

Richard Monroe Hoyle, son of Richard and Hannah (Standish) Hoyle, was born in Thompson, Conn., June 27th, 1844. At the age of 16 years he enlisted in the 15th Massachusetts volunteers.

He was wounded four times while in the service. After the war he engaged in mercantile business till 1883. Since that time he has been engaged in farming. He built the Hoyle Block in Putnam in 1877. His wife's maiden name was Inez Carpenter.

Andrew Leavens, son of Joseph, son of Joseph, was born in Killingly February 11th, 1771, and died June 28th, 1847. He married Elizabeth Davis and had seven children. The only one of these living is Andrew K., born in Killingly July 16th, 1819, married Lois Holmes, daughter of Samuel Holden Torrey. They have no children.

William H. Letters, third son of John and Charlotte Letters, was born in Warren, Mass., December 5th, 1842. He was engaged in the manufacturing business from 1864 to 1871 in Stafford, Conn. In the latter year he came to Putnam and opened a store for the sale of musical instruments and sewing machines. His present brick store, which is 20 by 75 feet, was completed in 1881. In December, 1886, his son, Frank G., became a member of the firm, under the name of Wm. H. Letters & Son. He is married to Emeline R. Skinner. His children are: Frank G., born in Monson, Mass., March 13th, 1865, and Charles M., born in Putnam May 14th, 1872.

Edward Mullan was born in Belfast, county Antrim, Ireland, October 26th, 1854, and came to America with his parents in 1860, they settling in Thompson, Conn. He attended the common school, also a private school in Putnam. At the age of twenty he engaged in the general store business in Putnam, which he has since conducted. He has held various town offices, was member of the board of selectmen in 1880-81, justice of the peace and registrar of voters. He was appointed postmaster July 18th, 1885. He married Eliza, daughter of Michael Sherlock, and has two daughters—Anna and Gertrude.

Danforth K. Olney, born in Ashford, December 17th, 1830, is the eldest son in a family of eight children of Thomas J. and Mary (Marcy) Olney. In his early life he engaged in shoe making, but at the age of seventeen went into mercantile business at Fiskdale, Mass. He afterward went to Brookdale, Mass., and finally located at Southbridge, Mass., in the grocery business, being a member of the firm of Edwards & Olney. This firm subsequently dissolved, and he engaged in a general store trade, the firm being Comstock & Olney. Suffering loss by fire, he severed his connection with mercantile business, and was for

three years assistant United States assessor. After this he was general agent for three years for a gas machine company in New York. He then for two years was in the hotel business in Springfield, Mass. In 1879 he came to Putnam, and for the next year and a half was landlord of the Commercial House, and from that time until his death, November 1st, 1886, he was proprietor and manager of the Bugbee House. He married March 7th, 1854, Lucy M., daughter of Wright and Clarissa Woodward, and had one child, Clara Belle. He was a member of the 45th Massachusetts volunteers during the war.

The Perrin Family.—The first settler of this family in this country was from England, and spelled his name as follows: John Perryn. He was born in 1614 and came to America in 1635, settling at Braintree, Mass. He had five children: Mary, John, Hannah, Abraham and Mary. John, his son, who died at Roxbury, had ten children, of whom Samuel, the second son, was born March 10th, 1671, and died in Woodstock, Conn., March 10th, 1743. He had seven children, his eldest son, Samuel, being born March 13th, 1697, married Dorothy Morris, and died in Pomfret, Conn., December 6th, 1765. He had ten children: Samuel, Lucy, died at 10 years of age; Hezekiah, died aged 38 years; Jedidiah, died in the West Indies; Dorothy, married Benjamin Leavens; Prudence, died aged 3 years; Chloe, Hannah and Abraham, all died single, and Daniel, died in Thompson. Samuel, son of Samuel, born August 20th, 1725, was a lieutenant in the revolutionary war, married Margaret Hyde, and had eight children: Willard, killed in the revolutionary war; Sarah, married L. Bartholomew; Hannah, died 2 years of age; Hannah, died young; Silence; Noah, died in Putnam; Lucy, married William Gary and emigrated to Illinois, where she died; and Jedidiah, born February 28th, 1775, and died February 25th, 1856. Jedidiah married Diana Aldrich and had the following family: Huldah, married Lemuel Holmes; Caroline, married Pitt Holmes; Abraham, died in infancy; Lora Ann, died single; Diana, married Pitt Holmes; Abraham, died single; Lucia, the only survivor, resides in Putnam; and Jedidiah, died without issue.

Sylvanus Perry was an officer in the revolutionary army and lived in Killingly. He was twice married, and had the following family: George, died West; Anson; Sylvanus, died in New York state; Abby, married an Ormsby; Rebecca, married George Wadsworth, and died in Wisconsin; and Desire, died in Kil-

lingly. Anson, son of Sylvanus, was born October 5th, 1770, married Abalena Buck, and had ten children: Otis, died in Killingly; Charlotte (deceased), married John Truesdale, of Killingly; Ann (deceased), married Jason Wakefield, of Thompson; Lucy (deceased), married, 1st, Joseph Perry, 2d, George Chaffee; Rebecca (deceased), married Penuel May, of Woodstock; Keziah (deceased), married James Youngs, of Putnam; George; David B., lives in Illinois; Sylvanus, lives in New York state; and William, lives in Illinois. George, son of Anson, was born in Killingly, September 30th, 1809, married Eliza W. Buck, and had eight children: Elisha F., resides at Worcester, Mass.; Mary E., wife of John D. Wells, of Providence, R. I.; Caroline D., wife of Francis B. Chaffee, of Woodstock; Martha A., wife of Elisha Rogers, of Montville, Conn.; James E., resides in Putnam; John H., lives in Killingly; Angie and Morrison.

James Perry came from Lebanon, Conn., married Lucy Perry, and had four children: Anson, lives in Putnam; Joseph, lives in Thompson; William S., and Lucy A. (deceased), married Elijah Ormsbee, of Providence, R. I. William S. was born in Bridgewater, Mass., October 16th, 1826, married Annie Ames, and had five children: William Francis, died aged 12 years; Eugenie, resides in Canterbury, Conn.; Charles, resides in Dakota; Mary Ann, died aged 25 years; and Ernest Leroy. William S. is a blacksmith by trade, and was a member of Company A, 6th Connecticut volunteers, in service three years and one month. He was wounded at the charge of Fort Wagner.

George A. Pettis was born in Coventry, R. I., July 21st, 1835. His father, Welcome, was born in Coventry, February 22d, 1815, married Celinda Rouse, and had three children: Isaac A., died in Amherst, Mass.; George A., and Mary L., wife of R. A. Turner, of Newark, N. J. He came to Putnam in 1836, where he died October 3d, 1863. George A. married Harriet Hall, and their children are: G. Albert, Jr., born in Putnam, December 22d, 1859, married Ida M. Harris, has one child, Sybil, and resides in Putnam; Elmer E., resides in Putnam; and Nellie E., wife of Loren Stockwell, of Douglass, Mass.

George E. Shaw, eldest son of George W. and Abbie (Carpenter) Shaw, was born in Thompson, Conn., January 20th, 1851. He received a common and high school education. At the age of fifteen he came to Putnam and engaged in the jewelry business with his uncle Edward Shaw. At the death of

his uncle in 1876 he became a member of the firm under the style of George E. Shaw & Co. He married Nellie S., daughter of the late Dwight Sharpe, of Pomfret, and has one daughter, Ruth E.

Dutee Smith, second son of Seneca and Nancy (Hunt) Smith, was born in Burrillville, R. I., March 13th, 1825. At the age of twenty he went to Douglass, Mass., where he was employed for fifteen years by the Douglass Axe Co. He came to Putnam in 1864 and engaged in butchering, which he followed a number of years; then owning the Elm Street House, he ran a hotel till 1887. His first wife was Eliza J. Dudley, and his second wife, Maggie Small. His children by his first wife are Luella and Clara, both married and residents of Boston. By his second wife he has two sons, Luther G. and D. Roy, both residents of Putnam.

Frank S. Streeter, only child of Hiram B. and Persis S. Streeter, was born in Southbridge, Mass., March 5th, 1846. He has always been a farmer. He came to Pomfret in 1871 and to Putnam in 1880. He has been twice married, first to Mary A. Sherman, and second to Ruth R. Maynard. He has one child, Ethel May, by his second wife.

James B. Tatem, second son of Henry and Abbie Ann (King) Tatem, was born in Phenix, R. I., April 9th, 1836. When he was six years old his parents moved to Charlton, Mass., from there to Brookfield, afterward to Southbridge, Mass, and became residents of Woodstock in 1850. His father's death occurring when the son was fourteen, he was unable to complete his education, and engaged in shoemaking, which, with farming, he carried on till 1868, when he commenced wood turning, producing handles of every description, carriage poles, whiffletrees, etc. In 1887 he admitted his son John Nelson as partner under the firm name of J. B. Tatem & Son. The latter manages the business at the factory, but the office, which is connected by telephone with the works, has been located in Putnam since 1886, the senior partner having resided there since that date. Mr. Tatem has held several town offices in Woodstock, was deputy sheriff for ten years, member of the legislature of 1878, state senator from the 16th District in 1885 and 1886. In May, 1886, he was appointed state dairy commissioner for two years by Governor Henry B. Harrison, and was reappointed by Governor Phineas Lounsbury. He married for his first wife, Mary

C., daughter of Silas P. Allen, of Woodstock. She had two sons—John Melvin and Henry A. He was married again to Angie S., daughter of Eli Kenyon, of Woodstock, and by her has two children—Mary Eaton and James Garfield.

Thomas Jones Thurber is a son of Henry Thurber and Mary Hope Jones, his wife, who came to Putnam in 1846 with seven children: Julia Hope, married J. S. Jackson, of New York, and died there in 1888; Henry Clarence, died in Putnam in 1851; Frances A., married E. S. Bugbee, of Woodstock, and lives in Putnam; Thomas Jones; Joseph Harris, lives in New York; Sarah Allen, died in Putnam in 1852, and Emma Louise, married J. E. Taylor, of Woodstock, Conn., now of Worcester, Mass.

Doctor Samuel Holden Torrey was the son of Reverend Doctor Joseph Torrey and was born in South Kingstown, R. I., and practiced medicine in that town and Killingly, Conn., where he died December 1st, 1786, at the age of 48 years. He married Anna Gould, of Branford, Conn., and had eight sons: Samuel Holden, emigrated to Rushville, N. Y., where he died; Oliver, died in infancy; William Gould, Joseph, died in infancy; Joseph, died aged 17 years; Oliver and Augustus, became physicians, and Erastus, went to Windsor, Vt. William Gould, son of Samuel Holden, was a farmer and was born in Killingly, Conn., June 1st, 1766. He was twice married—first to Sarah Cutler, second to Lois Holmes. He had but one son, Samuel Holden. William Gould died September 9th, 1849. Samuel Holden was born in Killingly, April 6th, 1796. He was a farmer and was married March 5th, 1828, to Rhoda Smith. They had but one child, Lois Holmes, wife of Andrew Knight Leavens, of Putnam. Oliver, son of Reverend Doctor Joseph Torrey, was born in South Kingstown, R. I., March 24th, 1756, and died March 7th, 1843. He married September 23d, 1784, Tama, daughter of Daniel Davis, one of the pioneers of Ohio in 1788. They had twelve children: Elizabeth, married Rufus Davison, of Killingly; Daniel D., Sarah, married Asa Cutler; Lucy, died single; Susan D., married Jeremiah Dana, of Oxford, Mass.; George, died single; Sophia, died single; Hannah B., died single; Mary, married James Howe; Elvira, died unmarried; and Almira, married Benjamin Brayton, of Putnam, and is the only one living at the present time. Daniel Davis, son of Oliver, born February 20th, 1788, married Olive Cutler and had five children: Erastus, Joseph W., died in Putnam; Mary C. and Rebecca L., died young, and Walter D.,

died in Manchester, Conn. Daniel Davis married for his second wife Susan Bishop, her mother being a Torrey. They had one child, Daniel D., who died at the age of 17 years. His third wife was Mrs. Eliza Davis, by whom he had one child, Abigail, who married Moses B. H. Bishop. Daniel D. died October 20th, 1860. Erastus, son of Daniel Davis, was born in Killingly, June 28th, 1814, married Sybil Alton and had three children: Charles Davis, George Louis, died in infancy, and Olive E., wife of Silas L. Babbitt, of Putnam. Erastus died December 23d, 1885. Charles Davis, son of Erastus, born in Pomfret, March 8th, 1840, married Martha W. Warren and had five children: Charles Louis, Martha Louise, wife of Irving P. Spencer; Ernest Ellsworth, Olin W. and Corrina J., died in infancy. Charles Davis was engaged in mercantile business in Killingly, and is now a farmer in Putnam. He is located on a farm that has been in the family since 1713. He was a member of the house of representatives in 1886-87.

Jerome Tourtelotte, eldest son of Joseph D. and Dinah (Munyan) Tourtelotte, was born in Thompson, Conn., June 10th, 1837. His father being a farmer he spent his early life on a farm. At the age of sixteen he learned the shoemaker's trade, but at the breaking out of the war he enlisted in Company A, 2d Regiment of Connecticut Infantry for three months as a private May 7th, 1861. At the expiration of his term of enlistment he returned to Putnam and raised a company which became Company K, 7th Regiment of Connecticut Infantry, was commissioned September 2d, 1861, first lieutenant, and was made captain February 21st, 1862. He was severely wounded at Fort Wagner, July 11th, 1863, and taken prisoner. He spent twenty months in rebel prisons, principally at Columbia, S. C., was exchanged March 1st, 1865, and commissioned major March 21st, 1865, and lieutenant-colonel July 24th, 1865, and mustered out of service August 12th, 1865. After the war he returned to Putnam, but from March, 1866, to July, 1873, was employed by the A. & W. Sprague Manufacturing Company at Cranston, R. I., in the position of outside superintendent. He then returned to Putnam and engaged in the manufacture of slippers, which he followed till March, 1880, when he was elected treasurer of the Putnam Savings Bank, which position he now fills. He was a member of the Connecticut house of representatives in 1875 and 1880. He married in November, 1874, Emily E., daughter of Edward

Husband, of North Adams, Mass., and has three boys: Leroy, Arthur and Harry.

Matthias W. Wagner was born in Germany, October 15th, 1827. At the age of sixteen, with his elder brother John, he came to America, landing at Quebec, Canada, where he remained for a short time, then went to Albany, N. Y. He was apprenticed to the tailoring trade in the old country, and worked as journeyman in various towns in New England, and finally located at Southbridge, Mass., where he went into business for himself. He was also in business at Hudson, Mass. He came to Putnam in 1868, and carried on the retail ready made and custom made clothing business till 1875. Since that time he has been engaged in building and buying and selling real estate. He married Louisa Collars, by whom he had three children: Henry Edward, died aged 16 years; Emma E., wife of George S. Bradley, of West Haven, Conn., and Charles Philip.

Edgar Mason Wheaton, eldest son of Angell and Mary Ann (Williams) Wheaton, was born in Pomfret, Conn., April 28th, 1851. His father's two eldest brothers went to Illinois in an early day, settling about twenty-five miles from Chicago, the place where they located being named Wheaton. A college was formed there, called Wheaton College, and our subject graduated from that college. He returned to Putnam in 1872, and engaged in building, and in 1880 erected his present shop and commenced to manufacture sashes, doors and blinds. He has built many dwelling houses and business blocks in Putnam. His residence is on the top of Oak hill, and he has laid out an addition to the village of Putnam, located between Grove, Chapman, South Main and Center streets, consisting of 54 building lots, streets having been graded. The property was formerly known as Davis' Grove, afterward as Bradley's Grove, and subsequently Mechanics' Park. In his shop he employs thirty-five hands, uses a twenty horse power engine, and does planing and sawing of every description. He married Charity, daughter of Timothy Jayne, a native of Illinois, and has the following children: Mary, Frank, Walter, Henry, Willie and Raymond.

Horatio Whipple, second son of Bela and Mehitable (Grant) Whipple, was born in Cumberland, R. I., January 8th, 1821. He has always been engaged in farming, and came to Putnam in 1841. His first wife was Mrs. Henry Hopkins, by whom he had two children: Mary, wife of Horace E. Hurlburt of Putnam, and

Martha, died in infancy. By his second wife, Sarah Ann Page, he has one child, Hattie E.

Edwin R. Wood, eldest son of Francis B. and Sophia (Hall) Wood, was born in Ludlow, Mass., November 3d, 1833. At the age of six he went to live with his uncle William R. Hall in the town of Chaplin. He came to Putnam in 1849. He has always been a farmer. He enlisted in Company B, 18th Connecticut volunteers for three years, and was discharged in May, 1865. He lost his leg at the Battle of Lynchburg, Va., June 18th, 1864. His first wife was Harriet White, whose children were: Albert Edwin, died aged 3 years; Joseph R., resides in Westfield, Mass., and Jerome, resides in Southampton, Mass. By his second wife, Abby E. Cruff, he has had children: Elma C., resides in Putnam, and Edwin L.

Alfred H. Wright, second son of Daniel C. and Agnes (Lyon) Wright, was born in Waltham, Mass., June 13th, 1859. He graduated from the Waltham High School in 1873. His father being engaged by the American Watch Company, he was apprenticed at the age of sixteen to learn the watchmaker's trade. He was employed by the American Watch Company till 1882, and from that time till 1885 was employed by the Hampden Watch Company of Springfield, Mass. In connection with his twin brother, Albert C., in 1883, he established a retail jewelry business in Putnam, under the firm name of Wright Brothers, and in 1885 he came to Putnam to reside. His brother's death occurred June 19th, 1888, and though the firm name remains the same, it consists only of Alfred H. Wright.

KILLINGLY.

William Preston Aldrich was born in 1836 in Thompson. He is a son of Jonathan, and grandson of Jonathan, whose father, Levi, was a son of Levi Aldrich. His mother was Abigail, daughter of Samuel Darling. He is a stone mason by trade, although he and his brother have a farm where they live. He was married in 1871 to Rhoda, daughter of John Tanner. They have three children: James, Proctor, and Jessie. Mr. Aldrich is a prohibitionist.

Jonathan Aldrich was born in 1840 in Killingly, and is a son of Jonathan and Abigail Aldrich. He is a stone mason by trade. He was married in September, 1873, to Lydia Burlingame. They have three children: Florence, Phineas, and Edna.

Clayton L. Alexander, born in December, 1862, is a son of the late Colonel Luther Alexander, who died in March, 1879. His mother is Mrs. Samuel D. Danielson. He was educated at the public schools of Killingly, at the Woodstock Academy, and at the Friends' School of Providence, R. I. He has been in the brick business at Palmer, Mass., since 1884, where he has displayed a business ability rarely seen in men of his age. He was married in July, 1880, to Anna A., daughter of Wolcott Day. They have four children: Luther D., C. Clifford, Orrilus W. and Dorothy. Mr. Alexander is a democrat.

Miss Emma F. Alexander is a daughter of Colonel William, who received his title in the state militia. Nell Alexander was the first of the family to settle in Killingly in 1721, and purchased a large tract of land near the northwest corner of the town. He was married the same year, 1721, to Susan Adams, whose ancestors came to America in 1630. Their only son Nell, married Prudence Cady, and their only son Nell, born in 1757, married Esther Smith, by whom he had nine children, among whom was William, better known as "Colonel William," born March 24th, 1787. He was married in 1816 to Susan, daughter of Captain John Day. They had eight children, three of whom are now living—Emma F., John D. and Reverend W. S. Alexander, D. D., of North Cambridge, Mass. Colonel William was state senator one term and representative several terms. Prior to 1856 he was a democrat, after that time a republican. He built the residence in 1847 where Emma F. now lives. He died in October, 1875, his wife having died eight years previous.

Anthony Ames was born in 1826 in Sterling, Conn. He is a son of Eliphalet Ames, and grandson of Samuel, whose father Mark, was a son of Anthony Ames. He came to this town at the age of seven years, was educated at Danielsonville Academy, and at the age of eighteen began to teach. In 1846 he went into the store at Ballouville, where he kept the books and store for the company two years. In 1853 he went into the mercantile business in Danielsonville, keeping a dry goods store for about ten years, then a clothing store until 1877, when he sold out to E. A. Finley. He was president of the Windham County Savings Bank from 1876 to 1886, and since that time has been vice-president. He has been a member of the school board about thirty years, and was town clerk and treasurer about twenty years. He was elected representative in 1888 as a re-

publican. He was married in 1853 to Abbie M. Wheaton. He is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., and has been secretary for fourteen years.

Henry Clinton Atwood, born in Williamsville in 1856, is the oldest son of William Allen and Caroline (Hargrave) Atwood. Mr. Atwood went from the schools of this town to the Friends' school at Providence, thence to the University Grammar School of Providence, finishing his education in 1878 at Brown University. He took charge of the company store at Williamsville, and continued in the same until his father's death in June, 1881; since that time he has been superintendent for the Manufacturing Company. He has been on the school board four years, and in 1888 was elected to represent this town in the legislature. He was married in 1878 to L. B. Whitford, daughter of Thomas W. Whitford. They have one son, Clinton William.

Kimball Atwood, born in 1830 in Scituate, R. I., is a son of William C. and grandson of Kimball Atwood. His mother was Julianna, daughter of Major Richard M. Andrews. Mr. Atwood came from Rhode Island to Williamsville in 1850, where he remained until 1862, with the exception of one year. From 1862 to 1865 he served in Company K, 18th Connecticut volunteers, as first sergeant. Since 1865 he has been overseer of carding. He was married in 1856 to Abbie J., daughter of William Newell. They have one son, Earl K. Mr. Atwood is a republican.

Orrin S. Arnold, son of Henry B. Arnold, was born in 1837 in Coventry, R. I. He learned the trade of bobbin and spool maker in Coventry, R. I. He came to Williamsville in 1864 and bought an interest in the bobbin manufactory of R. N. Potter, and continued in company with Mr. Potter until the latter's death in 1879. Soon after Mr. Arnold bought of the Potter heirs their interest in the business and continued alone until 1887, when he took as partner G. D. Barber. The firm is now the Arnold Barber Bobbin Company. Mr. Arnold was married in 1873 to Lucy M. C., daughter of Simon and Mary (Danielson) Buck, daughter of Captain Samuel and Elizabeth (Spaulding) Danielson. They have two children. Mr. Arnold built the residence where he now lives in 1867.

A. E. Austin, born in 1831 in Killingly, is a son of Silas and Susan (Easton) Austin. He is painter for the Williamsville Manufacturing Company. He was married in 1852 to Rosanna,

daughter of Robert K. Hargrave, whose father was William Hargrave. They have two sons—Oscar T., born in 1857, and Charles E. Oscar T. has been employed sixteen years by the Williamsville Manufacturing Company. He is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M. Mrs. Austin is a member of the Congregational church of Williamsville.

Charles H. Bacon was born in 1851, in Killingly, Conn. He is a son of William C., whose father, David A., was a son of David Bacon. William C. Bacon began the furniture and undertaking business at Westfield about 1820, and when the Arcade block was built on Main street he moved his business to the south rooms of the block, where he continued until the burning of the building, and later continued in the block that was built in its place until its burning the second time. Then he took the business to the Rothal Hall building where it still is. At Mr. Bacon's death in 1877, Charles H. took full control of the business, having being with his father several years. He keeps a full line of house furnishing goods. He sold the undertaking business to J. J. Reynolds in 1885. Mr. Bacon was married in 1871 to Alice M., daughter of John Lily. They have two sons: Edward H. and William C. Mr. Bacon is a member of the Congregational church.

Isaac B. Ballard was born January 16th, 1817. His father Isaac was in the war of 1812, and his grandfather, Jacob, was in the war of the revolution. He is the only survivor of five children. He is a farmer, and built the house where he has since resided in 1861 near Ballouville. He was married January 30th, 1848, to Mrs. Susan P. Smith, daughter of Spencer Dingley, son of Levi, who was a son of Jacob Dingley, of Maine. Mr. Ballard is a republican.

David Barrovclow, son of David Barrovclow, was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1813. He was a mill operative in England for several years. He came to Woonsocket, R. I., in 1848, where he worked at manufacturing until 1871, when he came to Killingly, where for several years he was engaged with S. & H. Sayles. In 1883 he built a residence near Dayville, where he now lives. He was married in 1848 to Elizabeth Fenly. She died in 1864, leaving two sons, Frederick W. and Charles H. He was married in 1864 to Alice Barrot. They have one son, Albert.

Mary A. Bartlett was a daughter of Arba Covell, son of Sampson, and he a son of Ebenezer Covell. She was married in September, 1832, to Waldo Bartlett, son of Reuben and grandson of Richard Bartlett. He was born in Killingly in 1810, was a farmer, and died at his home in East Killingly in 1873. They had nine children: Leonard, Almond, Mary E., Prescott, Hattie K., Almira, Reuben, Henry and Charles, all of whom are living.

Leonard Bartlett, eldest son of Waldo, was born July 13th, 1833. He was educated at the deaf mute school of Hartford, from 1847 to 1852. He learned the shoemaker's trade while there, and has followed the business since that time at East Killingly. He has been thrice married: first, to Theresa L. Barber, second, to Patient E. Slocum, and third, to Abbie N. Fitch. He has one daughter, Mary E., by the first marriage, and two children by the second marriage—Clarence A. and Clara A.

Frank W. Bennett, son of Sampson Bennett, was born in 1859. He attended the grammar and high schools of Killingly, then the high school of Exeter, New Hampshire, for one year. He was at Eastman's College in the winter of 1879-80. He entered the office of the Sabin L. Sayles Manufacturing Company at the age of fifteen years, and has continued in the same, with the exception of the two years, 1880 and 1881. He is now bookkeeper and paying clerk for the company. He is a republican, a member of Assawaga Lodge, No. 20, A. O. U. W., and a member of John Lyon Lodge, No. 45, K. of P.

Wheaton A. Bennett, born in 1826 in Killingly, is a son of Sterry and grandson of Israel Bennett. He was for about twenty years overseer of weaving in a factory in Massachusetts. He came to the farm near Ballouville where he now lives in 1867, and since that time has been a farmer. He was married in 1846 to Hepsibeth, daughter of Jeremiah Law. They have one son, Adelbert L., and one daughter that died, Ella L. Mr. Bennett is a democrat, and a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M.

Caleb Blanchard was born in 1833. He is a son of George, whose father, Caleb, was a son of Isaac Blanchard, who was a descendant of the French Huguenots. He has been a carpenter since 1850; was contractor and builder until 1873, and since that time he has been boss carpenter for the Ballouville mills. He was in the war of the rebellion, in Company B, 18th Connecticut volunteers, from August, 1862, until May, 1865, and was

discharged as sergeant. He was married in 1856 to Martha Preston. They have two children—Ada E. and Mary F. He is a member of Marvin Waite Post, No. 51, G. A. R., and a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M.

Charles S. Blackmar was born in 1853. His father, Charles P., was a son of John and grandson of Richard Blackmar, who came to this country with three brothers. His mother is Harriet, daughter of Franklin Clark, son of Moody and grandson of Edward Clark. Mr. Blackmar was educated at the Danielsonville schools. He was bookkeeper for the Danielsonville Manufacturing Company from 1874 to 1887, and in August, 1887, became bookkeeper for the Attawaugan Manufacturing Company, which position he has since filled. He married in 1877 Sue, daughter of Dean and Mary (Kennedy) West, the latter a daughter of Joshua Kennedy. They have one daughter, Mae. Mr. Blackmar is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M. His father, C. P. Blackmar, is in the post office department at Washington.

Shubael Blanchard, born in 1831 in Plainfield, is a son of Abraham and grandson of Caleb Blanchard. His mother was Minerva (Potter) Blanchard. He came from Plainfield to Killingly in 1848, where he has worked for twenty-four years at carpenter work, but he is now farming. He was married in 1855 to Martha J., daughter of George W. and Delila (Russel) Randall. They have four children: Henry M., Emily E., Carrie and Grace E. Mr. Blanchard is a democrat.

Alfred B. Boswell, born in 1833, in Foster, R. I., is a son of William and grandson of William Boswell, who came to this country from England about the time of the "Boston Tea Party," and served under Washington in the revolution. His mother was Diana, daughter of Doctor Jerry Wilcox, of Foster. Mr. Boswell is a stone mason and has worked at that trade about thirty-seven years. He came to Danielsonville in 1884. For twenty-three years prior to that time he lived in South Killingly, on the farm that he still owns. He was married in 1858 to Harriet, daughter of George Babcock. They have three children: Alfred A., Susan H. and George C. Mr. Boswell is a poultry fancier and breeds some very fine specimens. He is vice-president of the Danielsonville Poultry Association. He is a republican.

Nicholas Bowen, son of David and Mary (Bussey) Bowen, was born in 1826 in Gloucester. He is a carpenter by trade. He came to Dayville from Rhode Island in July, 1865, and the winter following he went into the shop of the S. L. Sayles Manufacturing Company, where he had charge of repairs on iron until May, 1885, and since that time he has worked at carpentering. He was married in 1848 to Sarah, daughter of Joshua Card, of Sterling, Conn. They have two children living—Mary E. (Mrs. Frank Burnett), and Julia E. They lost six: Edward Everett, Lucy M., Charles A., Thankful B., Charlie M. and David A. Mr. Bowen is a republican.

Oliver W. Bowen, born in 1843 in Foster, R. I., is a son of Nelson C., and grandson of Oliver Bowen. He was in the hardware and undertaking business with his father, firm of N. C. Bowen & Son, from 1869 to 1876. He started a livery stable in Danielsonville in 1882, which he still runs. He is selectman of the town as a republican. He was married in 1866 to Ada E., daughter of Josiah H. Randall. He is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M.

Thomas Bradford, born in 1849 in Canterbury, is a son of Archibald, and grandson of Thomas Bradford. His mother is Emeline, daughter of Abby Hyde. Mr. Bradford came to Danielsonville in April, 1871, and fitted up a shop, where he worked at wagon making about six years, and since that time has worked at different kinds of mechanical work. In 1887 he built a stone arched bridge in Danielsonville, which cost \$5,300. He is now serving his second year as selectman as a democrat. He was married in 1882 to Ida E., daughter of Marcus L. Aldrich. They have one son, Lewis A.

Albert Brown, born December 4th, 1822, is the only child of Artemas, and grandson of Joseph Brown, who came from Pomfret to Breakneck hill, where he remained until his death. His mother was Achsa Harrington. Mr. Brown was a shoemaker by trade, having followed the business for about thirty years, but since then he has been a farmer at the north end of Breakneck hill, where he now resides. He was married in December, 1846, to Celia, daughter of John H. Marcey. They have two daughters—Emma A. (Mrs. J. M. Keene) and Anna A. (Mrs. Frank H. Bowen).

Dexter Remington Burdick, born in 1823 in Voluntown, Conn., is a son of Cranston and Prudence (Lillibridge) Burdick. He is

a cotton manufacturer, having been overseer and superintendent of different mills in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He has lived at East Killingly since 1884. He was married in 1876 to Mrs. Emily C. Reynolds, daughter of George A. and Lucy (Mastcraft) Columbus. By a former marriage Mr. Burdick had four children: John F., George H., Helen E. (deceased), and Hattie A. Mr. Burdick is a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows orders.

Daniel P. Burlingham was born January 21st, 1818, in New York. He is a son of Samuel, whose father, Benjamin, was a son of Jonathan Burlingham. His mother, Randilla, was a daughter of Daniel Preston. Mr. Burlingham came to Killingly about forty years ago, was for several years in the grocery business, and since that time has been farming in a small way. He was married November 22d, 1838, to Hannah G., daughter of Lewis Bateman, he a son of Thomas, he a son of Hector, and he a son of Lord William Henry Bateman. Seth and Luther Bateman are second cousins to Mrs. B. They have one son, Daniel L. Mr. Burlingham has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Danielsonville since 1846, class leader about thirty years, and trustee twenty-five years.

Harris O. Burton, son of Elliot and Bernice (Williams) Burton, was born in Foster, R. I., in 1836, and came to Killingly from Rhode Island in 1850. He has been a cotton mill operative for many years, and overseer of weaving for the past fifteen years at the "Valley Mills." He was married in 1857 to Olive F., daughter of Reverend Jonathan Oatley. They have one son, Walter F., and one daughter, Elizabeth A., who died in infancy. Mr. Burton is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M.

Fred. L. Butts was born in 1856 in Killingly. His father, Henry W. Butts, was born in 1829, and married in 1856 Sarah J., daughter of William C. Marple. They have five children: Fred. L., Orrilla R., Phoebe L., Anná E. and Sarah H. Mr. Butts is a brick mason by trade. He was in California from 1884 until January, 1888.

George W. Butts, born in 1830 in Plainfield, Conn., is a son of Hollis, and grandson of Luther Butts. His mother was Rebecca, daughter of Benedict Hopkins. Mr. Butts was at Coventry, Conn., nine years, coming from there to Williamsville in 1864, where he built a house with a view to keeping a hotel with store in basement. He has kept a store several years, and a livery

stable since he came here. He was married in 1853 to Sabra C., daughter of Arbey and Rachel (Vaughn) Adams. They have five children: Edna E., Hattie E., M. Rosa, George W. Jr., and Bertha M. Mr. Butts is a republican.

E. S. Carpenter, son of Richard Carpenter, was born in 1838, in Thompson. His mother was Cyntha, daughter of William Walker. Mr. Carpenter was brought up a farmer. He came to Danielsonville in 1861, and for about ten years was in the shoe factory of Abner Young. He has collected the borough tax sixteen years, town tax six years and school tax eight years, has been constable nineteen years, for sixteen years has been a member of the republican committee, and fifteen years chairman of that body. He was married in 1862 to Julia, daughter of Mowry and Hannah Knight. They have one daughter, Ella L., two sons having died—Edward C. in infancy and Vernon L. aged twelve years. He is a member of the Danielsonville Baptist church, and has been sexton of the new church since it was built. He is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., also a member of Warren Chapter and Montgomery Council.

John G. Carter, son of Nehemiah, was born April 28th, 1842, in Westboro, Mass. He went to Boston at the age of seventeen, and since that time has been an artist. He was for five years in the studio of William M. Hunt. He has spent one year in Europe, and has traveled extensively in America. Since his marriage he has spent his summers in Danielsonville, and for the past two years has claimed his residence there. He was married in 1868 to Ada, daughter, of Harvey, Jr., and Lucy (Pierce) Chamberlin, and granddaughter of Harvey Chamberlin. Mr. and Mrs. Carter now occupy the house which was built by her father about fifty years ago. The latter was a stone mason by trade, and did much of the stone work on the Norwich and Worcester Branch Railroad.

Matthew W. Chace, born in 1850 in Killingly, Conn., is a son of Sanford and grandson of Robert Chace. His mother is Eliza W., daughter of Solomon Peck. Mr. Chace bought a farm in Pomfret in 1876, where he resided until April, 1886, and since that time he has been boss farmer for the Williamsville Manufacturing Company. He was married June 8th, 1876, to Kate, daughter of John F. Spencer. They have one daughter, Mary Eliza. He is a member of Wolfden Grange, of Pomfret, P. of H.

Benjamin F. Chapman, born in 1813 in Cumberland, R. I., is a

son of John and grandson of Benjamin Chapman. His mother was Abbie, daughter of Peter Miller. Mr. Chapman was brought up a farmer, in 1840 began dealing in farm produce, in 1842 began to slaughter and peddle meat in Pomfret, and a short time later moved the business to Dayville, and in 1844 to Danielsonville, where he continued (with the exception of three years when he rented the business and went to New York state) until September, 1880, when the son, Charles F., succeeded to the business. He was married in 1842 to Ruth L., daughter of Jeremiah Field. They have seven children living: Laura A., William J., Charles F., Mary E., Robert B., Frank W. and Helen L. They lost two: George and Augusta. Mr. Chapman has been selectman two years as a democrat.

Charles F. Chapman, son of Benjamin F., was born in 1847 in Killingly, Conn. In 1870 Mr. Chapman went to Worcester, Mass., where he worked at the butcher business until August, 1880. The month following he bought his father's business in Danielsonville, which he has run since that time. He runs two carts and handles about \$3,000 worth of meat per month. He was married February 9th, 1871, to S. M. A. Chase, daughter of William A. Chase. They have two children: Harry F. and Walter C. Mr. Chapman is a democrat and a member of the order of Odd Fellows.

Giles Chase, born in Killingly August 23d, 1810, is a son of Judge David Chase, born 1779 and died 1866. He was county judge two terms and judge of probate two years. He was the oldest son of Edward Chase, who was a son of David Chase. Giles Chase's mother was Amy, daughter of Whitney Graves. He is a civil engineer and surveyor. He has been on the board of selectmen two terms. He resided in Mechanicsville from 1868 until 1888. In August of that year he returned to Killingly, where he now resides. He was married in 1842 to Orpha D., daughter of Joshua Spaulding. They have six children: Omera G., Canova, David, Charles D., Cassius S. and Emma F.

Cassius S. Chase, son of Giles and Orpha (Spaulding) Chase, was born in 1854 in Killingly, Conn. He went from Killingly to Mechanicsville in 1868. While there he was in a store several years, leaving it to come to Elmville in January, 1886, where he has been in business with Charles D. Chase, firm of C. D. & C. S. Chase. He was married in 1885 to Cora M., daughter of Erastus Alton. They have one son, Harold Alton. He is a member of

Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., and of John Lyon Lodge, No. 45, K. of P. He is a republican.

Charles D. Chase, son of Giles and Orpha (Spaulding) Chase, mentioned above, was born in 1852 in Killingly, Conn. He went from Killingly to Mechanicsville in 1868, and there learned the business of woolen manufacturing. In 1876 he went to Jeffersonville, Mass., where he superintended a woolen mill for nine years. January 1st, 1886, he came to Elmville, where, in company with his brother Cassius S., he has run a woolen mill since that time, the production being fancy cassimeres. They now run 24 broad looms and employ 75 hands. Their power is a fall in the Whetstone brook, supplemented by steam. He was married June 28th, 1877, to Eliza J., daughter of Nathan Doty. They have four children: Warren D., Marvin E., Herbert G. and Alice B. They lost two, Charles E. and Harry S. Mr. Chase is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., and a member of John Lyon Lodge, No. 45, K. of P.

Chauncy C. Chase was born in 1850 in Killingly. He is a son of George W., son of Abner, son of Cromwell, son of Oliver, son of Oliver Chase. His mother was Mary Watson. Mr. Chase went into the employ of the Attawaugan Manufacturing Company in 1867. In 1872 he was made overseer of carding at Ballouville, and one year later took charge of carding at Attawaugan, which he continued for ten years, the last four of which he had charge of carding at both mills. In 1884 he was made superintendent at Ballouville, which place he still fills. He was married in 1868 to Elizabeth A. Harrington. They have four children: Clarence C., Albert A., Eva May and George H. He is a member of the Attawaugan Methodist Episcopal church, a member of Assawaga Lodge, No. 20, A. O. U. W., and a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M.

Cromwell D. Chase, born in 1827, is the oldest son of Cromwell, and grandson of Reuben Chase. His mother was Mahala (Wood) Chase. Mr. Chase is a farmer, having owned and occupied the farm where he now lives since 1856. He was selectman one term. He was married to Mary W. Bastow. She died in 1881, leaving three children: Mary D., Susan M. and Cromwell O. Mr. Chase is a democrat.

Samuel C. Chase, born August 23d, 1817, is the oldest son of Danford, and grandson of Reuben Chase. His mother was Lucy Covell. Mr. Chase was educated in the district schools of

the town. He was a farmer in early life, but since 1856 he has been a doctor, his principal treatment being magnetism. He has a large practice, having offices in Providence, Norwich and Putnam. He has been selectman several years, judge of probate one term, and one term representative in the legislature. He has been married three times: first to Emily Fuller, who died leaving three children—Lucy A., Samuel O. (deceased) and Emily J. The second wife was Mary M. Burlingham, who died childless. The third wife was Tamison Rich. They have one son, Rufus R.

William A. Chase was born in 1831 in Killingly. He is a son of Abner, whose father Cromwell, was a son of Oliver, and grandson of Oliver Chase. His mother was Esther, daughter of Jacob Cleveland. He was in the war of the rebellion, in Company A, 12th Rhode Island volunteers, enlisting in September, 1862, for nine months. Since 1863 he has been employed in the butcher business. He was town clerk one year. He was married in 1851 to Amanda M., daughter of Obed Fuller. They have three daughters—Mrs. C. F. Chapman, Mrs. E. H. Storrs and Mrs. Frank T. Preston. Mr. Chase is a democrat and a member of the Danielsonville Baptist church.

George J. Clark, born in 1828, in Chaplin, Conn., is a son of James, born in 1786, and grandson of Daniel Clark, born in 1750. His mother was Sally, daughter of John and Jerusha Richardson. His grandmother was Mehitabel (Slate) Clark. Mr. Clark is a mason by trade. He has lived in Killingly about twenty-five years. He built a handsome residence on Broad street in 1883. He was married in 1854 to Adelia H., daughter of Ira Gregory, a son of Ira Gregory. They have one daughter, Nettie E. They lost two children—Delia A. and Henry G. Mr. Clark is a democrat and a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M.

Benjamin Cogswell was born February 17th, 1838, in Trowbridge, England, and is a son of William and Elizabeth Cogswell. Mr. Cogswell came from England to Burrillville, R. I., in 1848, where he resided until July, 1866. He was interested in manufacturing, was for several years overseer of weaving, and for the last year there was superintendent of a manufacturing concern. In July, 1866, he came to Dayville, and was superintendent of S. L. Sayles' mill until March, 1887, and since that time he has been confined to the house by sickness. He was married December 25th, 1858, to Sarah S., daughter of Daniel S.

and Mary Rebecca Shumway. Their children are: Ida L. (Mrs. Frank G. Bailey), Cora Edna, Mabel S., Bernice S., Will D. and Benjamin S. He is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., of John Lyon Lodge, No. 45, K. of P., and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Samuel Cogswell, son of William and Elizabeth Cogswell, was born in 1846 in England, and came to Rhode Island in 1847. He came from Burrillville, R. I., to Dayville in 1866, and learned the business of woolen manufacturing with S. & H. Sayles. About ten years later he went to Adams, Mass., where he superintended a mill for Peter Blackinton about five years. He came to Killingly with T. E. Hopkins in 1880, and since that time has superintended his woolen mill. He was married in February, 1868, to Emily A., daughter of Albert S. Potter. They have two children—Edna E. and Frank E. He is a member of John Lyon Lodge, No. 45, K. of P., also a member of Assawaga Lodge, No. 20, A. O. U. W.

William Comins, born in 1820 in Woodstock, Conn., is a son of Parker Comins, who came from Woodstock to Putnam in 1825, and three years later to Danielsonville. His mother was Lucy, daughter of David Copp. Mr. Comins acquired the harness maker's trade when a lad. He was in Company K, 18th Connecticut volunteers, from August 18th, 1862, until the close of the war. His brother Alfred was in the service in the 17th Connecticut volunteers, and was shot at Cold Harbor. He has been loom harness maker for twenty-five years. He was married November 30th, 1843, to Eliza M., daughter of Philip Tanner, who was in the war of 1812. He was the son of William, who served seven years in the revolution, and also served in the war of 1812. They have three sons. He is a member of the Congregational church, and a republican.

Charles F. Coone, son of Frank and Susan (Hale) Coone, was born in 1840 in Brooklyn, Conn. He was a farmer until he was twenty-five years old, and at that time began to learn the carpenter's trade, which he has since followed. Since 1880 he has been working at repairs for the Quinebaug Manufacturing Company. He built the residence on Broad street where he now lives in 1874. He was married in 1869 to Emily M., daughter of John R. Stone. Mr. Coone is a republican.

Oliver Smith Covell was born in 1829 in Killingly. He is a son of Oliver, son of Sampson, son of Ebenezer, son of Joseph

Covell, who owned and occupied a farm at the north end of Chestnut hill. Mr. Covell owns and occupies the farm where his father lived from 1816 until his death in 1852. This is the same farm where the wife of Ephraim Fisk gave birth to four children about 1780. This quadruple birth is discussed in many families of the town to this day. The house in which these four babes spent the first few years of their lives is now occupied by Mr. Covell. In this same house was born the father of Clinton B. Fisk, whose mother was a second wife of Ephraim Fisk. Mr. Covell was married in 1852 to Mary A. W., daughter of Orrin Reynolds. They have one daughter, Mary L. (Mrs. D. Cutler. Oliver Covell was in the war of 1812. One of his sons was killed at Cold Harbor during the war of the rebellion. He served in the 11th Connecticut volunteers.

Sidney W. Crofut was born in 1847 in Brooklyn, N. Y. He received a military education at the Military Academy on the Hudson. Mr. Crofut has been connected with large corporations, and for many years in an official capacity, and has the reputation of being an able and experienced business man and financier, and is esteemed as a representative citizen of the borough of Danielsonville and town of Killingly. He came to Danielsonville from Brooklyn, N. Y., in 1884, and at that time bought an interest in the fire insurance and real estate agency of E. L. Palmer. The business was continued in the firm name of Palmer & Crofut until September, 1886, when the partnership was dissolved by mutual consent, Mr. Crofut succeeding to the insurance business of the firm, which he has continued since that time. He represents a line of leading companies, and by his thorough business methods and known integrity has won a large patronage, and given his agency a wide popularity in his own and adjoining towns. He is a prominent and active member of the Baptist church, and treasurer of the society. He is one of the trustees of the Windham County Savings Bank, and was for some time president of the People's Library Association. He is one of the committee of the high school. In politics Mr. Crofut is a staunch republican. In April, 1887, he was elected a member of the court of burgesses of Danielsonville. In April, 1888, he was chosen warden of the borough, and the intelligence and executive ability exhibited by him in that office have proven him thoroughly competent to fill executive offices of even much greater importance.

It was during his term as warden that the borough contracted for fifty hydrants for fire purposes, and he was one of the gentlemen prominent in bringing this about. In the presidential campaign of 1888 he was vice-chairman of the Harrison and Morton Club executive committee, and in this position he brought into play the same adaptability to business methods and thorough mastery of and close attention to details which he puts into anything he undertakes. He owns and occupies one of the finest residences in the borough.

Rufus D. Curtis, born in 1824 in Ashford, is a son of Norman, who was a soldier in the war of 1812, and whose father, Chester Curtis, was in the revolutionary war. His mother was Margaret, daughter of John Greenman, of Kingston, R. I. Mr. Curtis was brought up on a farm in Brooklyn. In 1860 he came to Killingly and built the house where he now resides, having been a farmer since that time. He served in the war of the rebellion from August 1st, 1862, to September 23d, 1865, in the 18th Connecticut volunteers, Company K. He lost his right leg June 5th, 1864. He was married in 1848 to Lydia, daughter of Gardiner Phillips. They have six children: Emma (Mrs. G. I. Hopkins), Janette (Mrs. W. E. Talbot), Ida, Estelle, Lena (Mrs. George H. Tripp) and Lewis L. G., who graduated from Exeter Academy in June, 1889.

Edward P. Danielson was born in 1831 in Killingly, Conn. He is a son of Jacob, son of Samuel, son of Samuel, son of Samuel, son of James Danielson, who was the original settler here, and who established and laid out the Westfield cemetery. His mother was Lucy M. Prince. She had five children: George Whitman, Edward P., Eliza M., L. Jane and William J. Mr. Danielson is a house carpenter by trade. In 1868 he built the house where he now lives, and since that time he has been a farmer and carpenter. He was married in 1861 to Mary E. Johnson. She died in September, 1883. They had two children that died: Walter E. and Ella M. Mr. Danielson's grandfather was in the war of 1812.

Eliza A. Danielson is a daughter of Alvira Durfee, granddaughter of Philip Durfee, a son of Captain William Durfee. She was married in 1861 to James Danielson, who was born in 1832. He was in the war of the rebellion in Company F, 11th Connecticut volunteers, from 1861 until his death, which occurred October 12th, 1864. He entered the service as a private and held the rank of sergeant at the time of his death.

Emily Danielson, born in Killingly, Conn., is a daughter of Samuel S., who died in 1864. He was a son of Samuel, son of Samuel, son of Samuel, whose father, James Danielson, was the first of the name to settle here, having come from Block Island, R. I., in 1706. Her mother was Esther (Williams) Danielson, who died in 1888. Samuel S. Danielson was a farmer of more than ordinary enterprise. He, like all the Danielson family, was a liberal supporter of the gospel, being a member of the Congregational church of Westfield. He was married October 22d, 1833, to Esther, daughter of Eleazer Williams. They had seven children, of whom only the subject of this sketch is living. They were: Harriet G., who died aged 23 years; two sons and one daughter that died in infancy; Edwin W., who died aged two years; Herbert S., who died aged 23 years, and Emily.

George E. Danielson, born in 1854 in Killingly, is a son of Elisha, whose father James, was a son of William, who built the house where George E. now lives in 1786. He also served in the war of the revolution. He was a son of Samuel, whose father James Danielson bought of Major Fitch in 1707 all the land that lies between the Quinebaug and Five Mile rivers, and north as far as Alexander's pond. Elisha Danielson married for his third wife, Sarah, daughter of Eli Ely. They had nine children, of whom the following are living: Catharine E., William H., Edwin L., George E. and Walter H. Mr. Danielson was married in 1886 to Harriet K., daughter of Thomas R. Baxter. They have one daughter, Catherine K. Mr. Danielson is a member of Westfield Congregational church.

Helen L. Danielson is a daughter of Daniel Frost, who was a prominent lawyer, and died in Canterbury in 1863, aged 76 years. He was the son of Daniel Frost. His mother was the youngest daughter of John Clark, who it is said, established the first button factory in America, he having learned the trade in England. He died at the remarkable age of 101 years in Canterbury. Helen L. married Anderson S. Dean in 1843. He died in 1852, leaving two children—Anderson E. and Jennie L. She married for her second husband Hezekiah L. Danielson in 1870. He was the son of James, and a descendant of the original James Danielson. He was a farmer, and died in 1881. By a former marriage he had several children.

Samuel D. Danielson was born in 1838 in Killingly. He is a son of Adam B. Danielson. His grandparents were Samuel

Danielson and a daughter of Adam Begg, who came from Scotland and settled where Simeon Danielson now lives. Mr. Danielson was brought up a farmer. He was a dry goods salesman seven years, then after a few years he was in the furniture store of Edward Dexter about six years. He is now collector for the sewing machine company in Danielsonville. He was married in 1867 to S. Ellen, daughter of Abel Kennedy. They had two daughters—Mary L., who is now a student at Wellesley College, and Hattie K., who died aged two years. Mrs. Danielson died in September, 1885. He was married again in October, 1886, to Mrs. Amelia F. Alexander, daughter of Francis F. Young. She has two children by a former marriage.

Simeon Danielson was born in 1840 in Killingly. He is a son of Adam B., and grandson of Samuel, whose father Samuel, was a son of Samuel, and grandson of James Danielson. Adam B. was a deacon in the Congregational church of Westfield from 1828 to 1872. He was the father of seven children, three of whom are living. Simeon Danielson was a teacher for twelve years. Since that he has been a farmer. He was married in March, 1883, to Mary C. Harris of Michigan. They have two daughters—Ada E. and Florence H. Mr. Danielson is a republican, and a member of the Congregational church of Westfield.

George R. Davis, son of Randall and Philura (Kies) Davis, was born in 1831 in Killingly, Conn., and is one of nine children, seven of whom are living. Randall Davis bought the farm where George R. now lives of Jonathan Cutler in 1836, and built the present dwelling in 1842. Mr. Davis has been selectman four years as a democrat. He was married in 1864 to Betsey S., daughter of Dyer and Minerva (Durfee) Warren. They have two children—Frank A. and Minnie M.

Herbert Day, born in 1823, is a son of Captain John Day and grandson of John Day, who, with William Alexander, built the first mill at Dayville. His mother was Sarah Ann, daughter of Joseph Dexter. Of their five children there are only two living—Albert and Herbert. Mr. Day was a farmer prior to 1868, and since that time he has lived in Danielsonville. He was married in 1861 to Ellen, daughter of William N. Millard. They have three children. Mrs. Day died in 1870. Mr. Day was married again in 1878 to Lucy Gague. John Day was a soldier in the war of 1812.

Walter F. Day, born in March, 1849, in Killingly, is a son of Colonel Luther Day and grandson of John Day. His mother was Emily Fisher. She was married to Mr. Day in 1840. They had four children: Waterman A. and Walter B., deceased, and Eliza P. (Mrs. John M. Brown) and Walter F., who is a farmer, occupying the farm where his father and grandfather both lived. He runs a milk route to Dayville and Elmville. He has a farm of 200 acres. He has been on the board of relief two years. He was married in 1879 to Carrie, daughter of Julius Rood. They have four children: Carrie E., Mary E., Luther W. and Arthur L. Colonel Luther Day died in April, 1881, aged 81 years.

Edward Dexter, son of Jonathan and grandson of Joseph Dexter, was born in 1831 in Killingly, Conn. He was a farmer until 37 years of age. About 1868 he bought the furniture and house furnishing business of George Bates; in 1876 the undertaking business was added, and in 1886 he put in a carpet department. He built what is known as the Dexter Block in 1881, and since that time his business has been at its present location. He was married in 1864 to Margaret, daughter of George Clark. He is a member of the Westfield Congregational church and a republican.

Horace A. Dixon, born in 1839, in Providence, R. I., is a son of Horace and grandson of Charles Dixon. His mother was Martha M., daughter of Brinton Arnold. Mr. Dixon came to Connecticut when a lad. In 1862 he enlisted in Company E, 5th Connecticut volunteers, and served his country until the close of the war. In 1869 he came to Danielsonville, working in the machine shop of the Quinebaug Manufacturing Company about five years, since which time he has been overseer of the machine shop of the Danielsonville Cotton Company. He was married in 1868 to Harriet E., daughter of John Lily. They have one son, Walter L. Mr. Dixon is a member of McGregor Post, No. 27, G. A. R., and a member of Orient Lodge, No. 37, K. of P. He is a republican.

M. P. Dowe, born in 1835 in Providence, R. I., is a son of Amasa, and grandson of Amasa Dowe. He came to Danielsonville in 1845. In 1854 he went into the jewelry store with his father, learning the jeweler's trade. In 1860 he established a book, stationery and news business. In 1873 he bought the store and moved his business to its present location. In 1874 he

added woolen and worsted yarns to his stock. In 1883 the firm of M. P. Dowe & Sons was established, and the business is carried on under that name at the present time. Mr. Dowe has been a member of the board of education several terms and has been warden, clerk and treasurer of the borough. He was appointed postmaster in January, 1887. He is a democrat. He has had the telephone office since the Danielsonville division was built in 1882. He was married in 1856 to Emily A. Davis. They have two sons: John M. and Charles A.

Almond N. Durfee was born November 16th, 1840. He is a son of Horace, who was born in 1813, and died in 1886. The latter was a son of Abner, whose father was Captain William Durfee, who was a sea captain in early life, and lived in Newport county, R. I. He emigrated to Killingly, and purchased a large tract of land on Chestnut hill, and a part of that same land is the farm where Mr. Durfee now lives, and which is owned by Miss Sarah C. Durfee of Providence, R. I. Mr. Durfee was married October 17th, 1868, to Ann Dagnan. They have one daughter, Ellen Edna. Mr. Durfee is a democrat.

Melvin E. Fisher was born in 1843 in Woodstock, Conn. He is the only son of Lucius B., and grandson of Alcott and Mary (Jackson) Fisher. His mother was Emily, daughter of Jonathan and Sarah (Smith) Howard, daughter of Daniel Smith. Mr. Fisher has been a carpenter for the past twenty years in Danielsonville. He built his residence on Hutchins street in 1882. He was married in 1870, to Amy, daughter of Leonard Chaffee. They have one daughter, Grace E.

Erastus E. Fiske, son of Peleg and Eliza (Henry) Fiske, was born in 1836 in Killingly, and is a farmer. He served in Company K, 18th Connecticut volunteers, from August, 1862, until June, 1865. He was married in 1859 to Lydia J. Butman, who died in 1867. He was married again in 1871 to Mary J., daughter of Thomas Dexter, and granddaughter of Thomas Dexter. Their children are: Charles A., Walter R., Ella J. and Ida May. Mr. Fiske is a republican and a member of the Free Will Baptist church.

Isaac Fogg, son of Luther and Nancy Fogg, was born in 1818, in Maine, and is a carpenter by trade. In 1851 he came to East Killingly, where he has since lived. He represented this town in the legislature in 1862 and 1864. He was postmaster at East Killingly about sixteen years prior to October, 1885. He was

married in 1842 to Hannah A., daughter of George A. and Lucy (Mastcraft) Columbus. They had one son, Henry M., who died in infancy.

Calvin H. Frisbie, son of William Frisbie, was born in 1852 in Connecticut. He finished his education in Norwich, in 1869. He came to Attawaugan in 1869, where he learned the machinist's trade and was boss machinist for about four years. In 1879 he was made superintendent of the Attawaugan Manufacturing Company, which position he has since filled. He was married in 1879 to Marion, daughter of Lyman Taft, of Smithfield, R. I. They have three children: Hattie C., Henry L. and William R. Mr. Frisbie is a republican, a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M. and a member of Chapter and Council.

John W. Gallup was born in 1867 in Sterling, Conn. He is the oldest son of Ezra A., whose father, Daniel A., was a son of Esquire John Gallup. His mother was Olive (Knight) Gallup. He was educated at the public schools of Sterling and at the Plainfield Academy. He came to Danielsonville in August, 1887, and worked in the butcher and meat business for F. W. Medbery until December, 1888, when he bought the business.

Nathaniel S. Gallup, born in April, 1818, in Windham, is a son of Thomas, whose father, Nathaniel, was a son of Benjamin Gallup. His mother was Martha, daughter of Josiah Smith. Mr. Gallup is a farmer, although he has taught school twenty winters. He came from Voluntown to Killingly in 1875, and three years later he bought a small farm and put up the buildings where his residence now is. He represented the town of Voluntown one term, 1855, and was judge of probate and held other town offices. Since living here he has been selectman one term and on the school board two terms. He was married in 1851 to Mrs. Abbie White, daughter of Stephen S. Pierce, who was a son of Thomas Pierce, of Sterling. Mr. Gallup is a democrat. He lived in Voluntown from 1836 until 1875.

Patrick Gibbons, son of Thomas Gibbons, was born in Ireland in 1852, and came from Ireland to Wauregan, in the town of Plainfield, in 1853, where he lived until 1878. He worked eight years in the Wauregan store, going from there to Putnam, where he remained two years. In August, 1880, he established a general store at Chestnut hill, where he continued until March, 1884, when he moved the business to Killingly Centre. In August, 1888, he sold out to John and Peter Leyden. He was married in

1879 to Maria C. Leyden. They have three children: Minnie A., John T. and George E. He is a member of the Dayville Catholic church, and a member of John Lyon Lodge, No. 45, K. of P.

J. Charles Greene was born September 5th, 1833, in Smithfield, R. I. He is the youngest son of John C., and grandson of Job Greene. Mr. Greene spent his boyhood and youth in Millville, Mass., leaving there at the age of twenty-one. He lived three years in Pascoag, R. I., then one year in Putnam, Conn.; from there he went to Madison county, N. Y., where he was interested in woolen manufacturing, coming back to Putnam for a time, after which he came to Dayville, where he was boss finisher for the Sayles Manufacturing Company eight years. In 1884 he bought a farm of 190 acres, which is one of four farms which comprised a school district at one time, namely, Danielson, Day, Dexter and Williams, called "Between the Rivers" district, and making a school of thirty-six pupils. Mr. Greene was married in 1856 to Mary, daughter of Daniel Harris. They have two sons, Fred. H. and Walter S. They lost one son, Wilmer F.

Albert W. Greenslit, born in December, 1827, in Hampton, Conn., is a son of Ebenezer, who was in the war of 1812, and grandson of John Greenslit. His mother was Lucy Webb. In 1845 he came to Killingly from Hampton, where he has been engaged in cotton manufacturing almost constantly since that time. He was overseer of weaving about ten years, and on October 1st, 1863, he became superintendent of the Valley mills, which position he has filled since that time. He was married in 1848 to Patience M., daughter of Captain Otis Bastow, son of William Bastow. They have one son, Frederick A. He was a member of the legislature in 1876, and has held numerous town offices. He is a member of the Free Will Baptist church of East Killingly.

Eben Griffiths, born in 1823 in Plainfield, Conn., is a son of James Griffiths, who came from Foster, R. I., to Plainfield in 1820. His mother was Clarissa Hyde. Mr. Griffiths came to Danielsonville about 1842. He was engaged on repairs for A. D. Lockwood about seventeen years, in what is now the Quinebaug mill. He has had charge of repairs at the Danielsonville cotton mill since 1868. He built the residence on Maple street where he now lives in 1860. He was married in 1846 to Olive Handall. She died in 1884, leaving five children: Adaline E.

(Mrs. Charles Hyde), Mary E. (Mrs. Albert Jordan), William H., Hortense E. and Clarence L. Mr. Griffiths was married again to Mrs. Mary Bitgood, daughter of Israel Pratt.

Henry H. Hammell, son of James Hammell, was born in 1830 in Manchester, England, and came to America when about fifteen years of age. Since 1851 he has been in the manufacturing business almost constantly. In 1859 he came to the Chestnut Hill mills as overseer of carding, and in 1860 was made superintendent. In 1865 he went to Rhode Island, where he remained until August, 1886. At that time he came back and has been superintendent since that time. He was married in 1852 to Mary Baldwin. She died in 1866, leaving one daughter, Emma. He was married in 1873 to Ruth Round. He is a member of the Baptist church, a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., and a republican.

Edward H. Hammett was born in 1856 in Plainfield, Conn. He is a son of Theodore, whose father, Erastus, was a son of Jonathan Hammett. Mr. Hammett was brought up on a farm until 1879, when he came to Danielsonville, where he worked for the Quinebaug Manufacturing Company eight years, and since that time he has been employed in the mill supplies shop of E. H. Jacobs & Co. He was married in 1879 to Ida M., daughter of William Wood. They have two daughters—Myrtie E. and A. M. May. Mr. Hammett is a republican.

Erastus Hammett, born in 1824 in Plainfield, Conn., is a son of Erastus and grandson of Jonathan Hammett. His mother is Priscilla (Wilbur) Hammett. She is now 93 years old. Mr. Hammett was a farmer until 1873. At that time he built a house and moved to Danielsonville, where he was in the express business for nine years. He still owns and runs the old homestead of Jonathan Hammett in Plainfield. He was married in 1846 to Mary, daughter of Isaac Pike. They have four children: Augustus L., Augusta L., Chauncey (deceased) and Frank I.

Theodore Hammett, born in 1820 in Plainfield, is a son of Erastus, and grandson of Jonathan Hammett, who came from Martha's Vineyard to Plainfield when a boy. He married Mehitabel Woodard. Erastus was married to Priscilla Wilbur. They had two sons, Theodore and Erastus. Jonathan Hammett was a representative several times, and selectman about twenty years in Plainfield. Theodore is a farmer, having a farm of 214 acres. He was married January 1st, 1850, to a daughter of Cal-

vin Hubbard. They have had eight children: Theodore E., Edward H., Maria, Abbie M., Nellie L. and three that died—Olive, Carrie and Hattie.

Henry Hammond, born in 1814 in Pomfret, Conn., is a son of Eleazer, and grandson of Stephen Hammond. His mother was Ann M. (Brown) Hammond. Mr. Hammond came to Killingly in 1851. He was a member of the legislature in 1854 and again in 1865, and was state senator in 1881 and 1882. He was for several years trustee of the Windham County Savings Bank, and is now president of the First National Bank of Killingly. He was married in 1840 to Emma Dorrance. They have one daughter living, Harriet J. They lost two children—Charles Henry and Ella. Mr. Hammond has been a member of the Methodist church for about sixty years. He is a republican.

Mrs. Susan Hammond was a daughter of H. Peckham, M. D., who was born in 1777 and died in 1837. He practiced medicine in East Killingly for many years. She was married November 25th, 1831, to Justin Hammond, M. D., who was born in 1804, entered Brown University in 1823, graduated from there in 1827, and received his degree of M. D. from Harvard in 1830, and immediately began practice in Killingly and continued until his death in 1873. He removed from East Killingly to Dayville in 1851, where his widow now lives. Doctor Hammond was a representative in the legislature two terms. He was a whig and later a republican. They had a family of eight children, three of whom are now living: Susan P., of Boston; Henry L., of Dayville, and Ellen F. (Mrs. S. M. Gladwin), of Hartford. Mrs. Hammond is a sister of the late F. H. Peckham, M. D., of Providence, R. I.

Charles S. Hawkins was born in 1818 in Killingly, Conn. He is a son of Arnold, and grandson of Joseph Hawkins, whose father was Moses Hawkins. His mother was Marcia, daughter of Daniel Spaulding. Mr. Hawkins has been a farmer. He built a large residence in Danielsonville in 1873, and two years later he retired from the farm and came here to live. He was married in 1851 to Lydia, daughter of Nathaniel Corey. He is a member of the Westfield Congregational church.

Edwin W. Hayward, son of Edward P. Hayward, was born in 1858 in Pomfret, Conn. He was in Putnam High School about four years. He came to Danielsonville in 1879, and in April of that year the firm of Durkee & Hayward was established, and

they bought the tailor business of E. A. Finney, and added ready made clothing to the business, which was continued until March, 1886, when Mr. Hayward bought Mr. Durkee's interest, and since that time has conducted the business alone. He was married in 1884 to Lizzie, daughter of John H. Stephens. They have one son, Julius S. Mr. Hayward is a member of the Congregational church, and a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M.

Jeremiah Hill, born in 1827 in Plainfield, Conn., is a son of Daniel, whose father Edward Hill, came to Plainfield in 1779, and settled on a farm in the northeast part of the town, which is still in the Hill family. His mother was Abigail (Hall) Hill. Mr. Hill was a farmer in Plainfield until 1867, and at that time he came from there to Danielsonville, where he has done teaming. He was married in 1848 to Freeloove Potter, who died in 1850. He was married again in 1851 to Abbie F., daughter of Samuel Bushnell. He is a member of the Congregational church of Westfield.

Mrs. A. Caroline Holbrook is a daughter of Jeremiah and Hannah (Angel) Field, granddaughter of Jeremiah and Lydia (Colwell) Field, and great-granddaughter of Jeremiah Field. She is one of twelve children, nine of whom are now living. She was married in 1860 to John K. Holbrook, born in 1804, in Pomfret, son of Judge John Holbrook. They came to Danielsonville in 1875, having built a residence in Westfield three years previous. He died at his home in 1885. Mrs. Holbrook and her sister Mrs. William S. Alexander, occupy the residence now.

Mathewson Hopkins, born in 1800 in Foster, R. I., is a son of Mathewson, and grandson of Nicholas Hopkins. His mother was Mary Tanner. Mr. Hopkins is a farmer, and came to Killingly from Rhode Island several years ago. He was married in 1820 to Mahala, daughter of Sampson Bennett. They have four children living: William, Darius, Thomas M. and Gilbert. His wife died in 1872. He was married again in 1874 to Mrs. Sarah Sweet, daughter of Abel Tanner.

Mary Hovey is a daughter of Hollis, and granddaughter of Luther Butts. Daniel A. Hovey, M.D., was born in 1809, and in 1830 he began the practice of medicine in South Killingly, which he continued until his death in October, 1878. Although he had a large practice, he found time to represent the town one year in the legislature, and always took an interest in the politics of the

town. He was a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M. He was married in 1859 to Mary Butts. They had five children: Marian B. W. (Mrs. George Briggs), Charles E. (deceased), Emeline E. (Mrs. William Miller), Jennie E. (Mrs. Merton Gardiner), and Charles A. (deceased).

Daniel S. Hubbard was born in 1819 in Plainfield, Conn. He is a son of Calvin Hubbard, who was ensign in the war of 1812. His father was a soldier in the war of the revolution. It is believed that his name was Calvin Hubbard. His mother's name was Olive, a daughter of Edward Hill. Mr. Hubbard is a farmer. He built a residence in the south part of the village of Danielsonville in 1861, where he now lives. He was married in 1846 to Lydia Ann Hale. She died in 1851. They had two children—Ida O. and Henry C., both deceased. He was married in 1872 to Mary, daughter of Samuel D. Baxter, son of Joseph Baxter, whose father Robert, was a son of Thomas Baxter.

Thomas Hughes, son of Patrick Hughes, was born in 1837 in Ireland, and came to Connecticut when a lad. In 1865 he went West, where he was a farmer for eighteen years, returning to Attawaugan in 1882, where he bought a farm and has since resided. He was married in 1864 to Honora Connor. They have six children: Thomas, James, Daniel, Joseph, Mary and Catharine. Mr. Hughes is a democrat and a member of Dayville Catholic church.

Charles D. James, born in 1845 at Baltic, Conn., is the adopted son of Charles and Lucy (Bushnell) James. He is a farmer. He came to Danielsonville in 1867, and bought the farm where he now lives. For the past five years he has been agent for farm implements and fertilizers. He was married in 1868 to Maria E., daughter of Theodore Hammett. They have seven children: Ida C., Robert R., Lucelia A., Everett, Lyndall, who died in infancy, Eulali E. and Carrie H. He is a spiritualist and a prohibitionist. /

Rowland R. James, son of Alanson James, was born in 1838 in Cranston, R. I., and came to Killingly in 1855. He taught school about four years, and was in the war of the rebellion from August 9th, 1862, to July, 1865, in Company K, 18th Connecticut volunteers. He was clerk in a store for two years prior to July, 1867. At that time he, in company with his brother Newman W. James, under the firm name of James Brothers, bought the grocery business of S. Gleason, and five years later they bought

the grocery and crockery business of Christopher Crandall, and moved to the Crandall Block, where they remained five years, and at the end of that time took possession of their present store. In 1883 the firm was dissolved, and since that time it has been R. R. James. Mr. James married in 1866 Olive A. Steere, and has two children—Albert L. and Grace E.

George Jencks was born in 1854. He is a son of Leavens, who was born in 1810, and married Esther Kelly. Four of their six children are now living: Dewitt C. E., Frances, Lucia G. and George, who was bookkeeper for H. & S. Sayles two years at Dayville. Leaving there in 1879, he came to Danielsonville, where he has kept a hardware store since that time. The firm was George Jencks & Co. until September, 1887, since then Jencks & Franklin. He has been warden of the borough one term, in the court of burgesses several terms, and justice five years. He was married to Lucy B. Potter. They have three children: Anna E., William L. and Mildred P. He is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., and is a member of the Congregational church. He is a republican. Leavens Jencks was the first station agent at Dayville, was postmaster there for several years, and also judge of probate. He was a merchant.

Hiram M. Jencks, son of James Jencks, was born in 1842 in Slatersville, R. I. He was superintendent of a mill at Arkwright, R. I., seven years. From there he went to Rehoboth, Mass., where he was interested in manufacturing for three years. He came from there to East Killingly in 1884, where he kept a general store for six months, removing the business to Dayville in April, 1885, where he still keeps a general store. He is a member of Assawaga Lodge, No. 20, A. O. U. W., and a member of the Masonic fraternity.

Daniel H. Johnson, born in 1836 in Coventry, R. I., is a son of Henry, and grandson of George Johnson, who was a soldier in the revolutionary war. His mother was Lydia Minerva, daughter of Captain Samuel Cady. Mr. Johnson was brought up a farmer and brick maker, but has worked at the carpenter's trade since 1861. In 1866 he came to Danielsonville from Brooklyn, Conn., and seven years later he built the residence on Reynolds street, where he has since lived. He was married in 1866 to Hannah Maria, daughter of Charles A. Stone of West Greenwich, R. I. He is a republican.

John Kelly was born September 18th, 1821. William Kelly was born in Rhode Island in 1747, came to Killingly in 1789, served in the revolution, and died in 1831. His son Ebenezer was born in 1780, was in the war of 1812, and died in 1864. His wife was Esther, daughter of Nell Alexander. Their youngest son, John, was born in Killingly. He has been in the wood and lumber business for several years. He was in the legislature in 1867 and 1877, and has held several town offices. He has been county commissioner since July, 1886. He was married in 1842 to Eliza A., daughter of Norman Curtiss. They have six children: Helen, Norman H., William P., Mary (deceased), and George S. and Mary Jane (deceased). Mr. Kelly is a member of Marvin Waite Post, No. 51, G. A. R., a member of the Congregational church, and a republican.

William P. Kelley, son of Hon. John Kelly, was born in 1848 in Killingly. He was in a general store at Versailles, Conn., for three years, and while there was postmaster, and filled other offices. He came to Dayville in 1882, where he kept a general store for about four years, and in March, 1886, he bought the store of M. & A. Wood in Dayville, and consolidated the two stores. He was married in 1876 to Anna, daughter of Reverend A. H. Bennett. They have three children: John B., Mary E. and Helen M. Mr. Kelley has held several town offices, and in 1887 represented the town in the legislature. He is a member of John Lyon Lodge, No. 45, K. of P., and of Assawaga Lodge, No. 20, A. O. U. W. He was in the war of the rebellion.

Lorenzo M. Kennedy, born in 1828 in Foster, R. I., is the seventh son of George, who was the youngest son of Alexander Kennedy. His mother was Selinda Parker. Mr. Kennedy came from Rhode Island to Killingly in 1846. He learned the carpenter's trade, but only followed it a few years. He kept a store for several years. He came to Dayville in March, 1866, and the same year bought the Dayville Hotel, which he managed with livery and sale stable attached until December, 1888, when he sold the business to his son, Frank S. Mr. Kennedy now lives on his farm at Ballouville. He was married in 1851 to Jane Kies. They have four children: Charles P., Frank S., Will L. and Nathan W. He is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M.

Frank S. Kennedy, son of Lorenzo M., was born in 1853 in Killingly, Conn. He bought the undertaking establishment of

Mowry Amsbury in 1880, and has carried on the business since that time. He was in a market for some time with his brother and father, as mentioned above, and now is a partner in a general store with his brother, Will L. Kennedy. He bought his father's interest in the hotel and livery stable at Dayville in December, 1888. He was married in 1880 to Ada, daughter of Oscar Amsbury. They have one daughter, Ida Jane. He is a member of Assawaga Lodge, No. 20, A. O. U. W.

Will L. Kennedy, son of Lorenzo M., was born in 1858 in Killingly. He was clerk in the store of M. & A. Wood for three years, then in company with his father and brother kept a market at Dayville three years (firm of L. M. Kennedy & Sons). In October, 1886, a partnership between Mr. Kennedy and his brother, Frank S., was formed, and a general store was established at Dayville, which they now run. He was married in 1879 to Susan Twogood, who died in 1882, leaving two daughters, Cora L. and Mary Jane. He was married again in February, 1885, to Alice C., daughter of John Turner. They have one son, Thomas H. Mr. Kennedy is a member of John Lyon Lodge, No. 45, K. of P.

Otis E. Keith was born in 1829 in Thompson, Conn. He is the only son of Captain Joseph D., who was the oldest son of Eleazer Keith, who was lieutenant in the war of 1812. His wife was Kelita Tyler. His father was lost in the revolutionary war, after which Eleazer was adopted by Joseph Demmon, of Massachusetts, who removed later to Thompson. The mother of Otis E. was Lucy, daughter of Silas Bundy, whose father, Ebenezer, once owned a large tract of land, including the mill privilege where the Putnam Manufacturing Company is now located. Mr. Keith is a farmer. He has been president of the Putnam Cemetery Association for six years. He was married in 1859 to Elizabeth Rowland, who died in 1879, leaving one son, Luther M. He was married August 16th, 1880, to Sarah M., daughter of Ezra Howard. They have one daughter, Abbie H. Mr. Keith is a staunch prohibitionist and a member of the Attawaugan Methodist Episcopal church.

Ann Kershaw is a daughter of John and Phœbe (Gregory) Stokes. She was married in 1859 to Robert Kershaw, son of William. Mr. Kershaw was a mill operative and mill superintendent at Burrillville. In 1884, in company with two others, he rented a mill in Burrillville, which they operated until 1886, when Mr.

Kershaw retired on account of ill health. He built a residence in Dayville in 1875, where he died in October, 1886, aged 57 years. He was a member of the Masonic order.

Fannie H. Kies, born in Coventry, R. I., is a daughter of Clark and Eunice (Matteson) Cornell. She was married in 1855 to George Kies, a son of Harris and Sarah Ann (Goodspeed) Kies, and a grandson of William Kies. Mr. Kies was a house carpenter by trade. He enlisted in 1862 as second lieutenant in Company K, 18th Connecticut volunteers, and served until the close of the war. He was promoted to first lieutenant during that time. He died in 1872. They have one son living, Walter E. They lost three children: Lenora A., Leroy E. and Victoria G.

Henry V. Lathrop, born April 9th, 1851, in Norwich, Conn., is a son of Richard S., and grandson of Septimus Lathrop, who was the seventh generation from Reverend John Lathrop, who was educated at Queens College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1609. His mother was Jane F., daughter of Festus and Eliza Thompson. She died July 7th, 1857, leaving two children, Mary E. and Henry Vaughn. The latter was educated at the public and select schools of Plainfield. He has been engaged in reed manufacturing in Danielsonville since February, 1869. In November, 1870, R. S. Lathrop bought the reed business here, and from that time until his death in May, 1882, Henry V. worked with his father, but since that time he has been manager of the business. He is a prohibitionist. He has been two years in the court of burgesses. He was married October 5th, 1875, to Mary H., daughter of William M. and Elizabeth (Shepard) Johnson. They have three children: Frank E., J. Bessie and Claribel A. Mr. Lathrop is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., and a member of the Westfield Congregational church. Mrs. Lathrop is a member of the Baptist church of Danielsonville. She is president of the local W. C. T. U.

George H. Law, born in 1816 in Killingly, is the eldest son of Jeremiah, whose father, George, was a son of George Law. His mother was Hepsibeth, daughter of Ebenezer Leach. Jeremiah Law was born in 1796, was member of the legislature one term and selectman several terms as a democrat, was the father of seven children, and died in 1876. George H. went from Chestnut hill to Rhode Island at the age of seventeen, where he was engaged in cotton manufacturing for twenty-two years. In 1870 he bought the farm where he now resides, and since that time

has been a farmer. He represented the town in the legislature two terms, in 1881 and 1883, as a republican. He was married in 1839 to Clarinda, daughter of Joseph Clark. They have eight children: Jennie (Mrs. C. T. Westcott), George, Sarah Ellen (Mrs. C. G. Mowry), Clara, Carrie (Mrs. E. Jencks), Emma, Joseph and Charles F. George was in the war of the rebellion, 3d Rhode Island Cavalry.

John W. Law was born in 1855 in Killingly. He is a son of Parris M., son of William, son of George, son of George, son of David Law. His mother was Emily (Perry) Law. Mr. Law began as clerk in the Williamsville store in 1876, where he has been since that time.

James K. Logee, son of Elisha Logee, is a baker by trade. In 1840 John Sparks established a bakery where the Central Hotel now stands in Danielsonville. In 1843 he sold the business to James K. Logee, who continued it at the same place until 1860. At that time he built a bakery in Westfield, which burned in February, 1879. It was rebuilt the same year, and since that time the business has been pastry baking; prior to that time it was a cracker factory. He was married in 1844 to Julia N., daughter of John Sparks. They had three sons: James E., William K. and Henry F. His wife died in 1858, and he was married in 1859 to Hannah H. Bruce. She died in 1877, leaving one daughter, Mary S. (Mrs. J. E. F. Brown). He was married in 1881 to Mary Chadwick Babson.

James E. Logee, son of James K. and Julia N. (Sparks) Logee, was born March 6th, 1845. He was brought up a baker, and in 1866 took an interest in the baking business with his father, and since that time they have carried on the business together. He was married in 1866 to Ada S. Tucker, who died one year later. He was married in 1873 to Lucy A., daughter of David B. Wheaton. They have two children: Arthur W. and Lucy T. Mr. Logee is a republican.

Calvin B. Long, born in 1837 in Canterbury, Conn., is a son of William, and grandson of David Long. His mother was Lucy Varnum. Mr. Long came to Danielsonville in 1869, and about four years later bought a blacksmith shop, which he has since operated. He was married in 1857 to Sarah, daughter of David Monroe. Their children are: William Henry, Jennie (Mrs. George Baker), and George. Mr. Long is a democrat. He served about three months in the war of the rebellion in the 3d Connecticut volunteers.

John Mahrs was born in Dublin, Ireland, and came to Massachusetts at the age of four years with his father, John Mahrs. He came to Danielsonville in March, 1858. He is a shoemaker by trade. He was appointed sexton of the Westfield Cemetery in 1877, and built the house where he now lives in 1869. Mr. Mahrs was married January 3d, 1848, to Eliza E., daughter of Waldo Parkhurst. Their children are: Lora J., now Mrs. P. H. Sprague; Susan E., now Mrs. W. K. Logee; John W. and Charlotte H., now Mrs. Henry Thompson. Mr. Mahrs is a prohibitionist. His wife is a member of the Congregational church.

William H. Marland, son of James Marland, was born in England, and came to Killingly in 1881. In 1882 he went back to England, returning again in 1884, and since that time he has been employed in the lumber yards of John A. Paine. He owns a residence on Maple street, known as "the Twin Cottages." He was married in January, 1882, to Hannah King. They have three children: Rupert K., Myrtie E. and Sidney P. They lost one son, Earl. Mr. Marland is a member of Danielsonville Episcopal church, and a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M.

Charles Mason, born in 1841, is a son of David, whose father Shubael, was a son of Peletiah Mason, whose wife was Sarah Allen. His mother is Lucy (Bowen) Mason. Shubael Mason's wife was Nancy Law. David and Lucy Mason had eight children: Israel B., George L. (deceased), Erastus (deceased), Maria F. (deceased), Charles, David A. (deceased), Emily L. (deceased), and William Henry. Charles has been a merchant for a number of years in Providence and other places. For the past few years he has had no business except a little farming. He was married in 1864 to Mary Crabtree, who died the year following. He married in 1868 Mrs. Abbie F. Rice, a daughter of W. R. and Chloe Lillibridge, of Exeter, R. I.

Lucy A. Mason is a daughter of Rufus and Susanna (Round) Simmons. She was married November 16th, 1861, to George L. Mason, son of David and Lucy Mason. He died leaving two daughters—Abbie F. (Mrs. E. M. Young), and Harriet E., who married F. Smith, son of James and Mary Ann (Williams) Smith. He was born in 1856, and works at carding in the Whitestone cotton mills.

William Mathewson was born December 22d, 1825. He is a son of Mason, and grandson of Royal Mathewson, whose wife

was Hepsibeth Mason. His mother was Margaret Taft. Mr. Mathewson is a farmer. He was married September 14th, 1851, to Mary M., daughter of David and Elizabeth Graves, and has one son, William T.

Frank W. Medbery, born in 1857, in Plainfield, Conn., is a son of Nathaniel, whose father Nathaniel, was a son of Nathaniel Medbery. His mother is Susan F., daughter of Sabin L. Hawkins. Mr. Medbery worked in the market of the Wauregan Company at Wauregan eight years. In November, 1881, he bought the meat business of J. P. Dexter in Danielsonville, which he enlarged, until now he keeps a full line of meats and canned goods, doing a business of about \$1,500 per month. He was married in 1878 to Nellie J. Johnson.

Esquire B. Miller was born in August, 1827, in Killingly, Conn. He is a son of Welcome and grandson of Peter Miller, whose father was a preacher. His mother was Elsie (Bartlett) Miller. Mr. Miller was a farmer with his father until 1859, and since that time he has been a carpenter. He came to Dayville in 1861 and for fifteen years worked on repairs, both wood and iron, for S. & H. Sayles. Since that time he has been a contractor and builder. He was selectman and clerk of the board for twelve years in succession. He was married in 1846 to Sarah H., daughter of Ephriam Warren. She died in May, 1887, leaving five boys: Chauncy T., Esquire J., Henry J., Everett E. and Fred. L. They lost one in infancy, Daniel W. Mr. Miller is a republican, a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., and also a member of the Chapter and Council.

Frank Mitchell was born in 1837 in Killingly, Conn. He is the oldest son of Ezekiel, son of Abraham, son of Ezekiel, son of Experience Mitchell, who came from England to Massachusetts in 1649, and whose son, Ezekiel, came to Killingly about 1768. Mr. Mitchell has worked in cotton mills since he was eight and one-half years old, with the exception of five years which he spent in California. He was overseer of weaving at Packerville eleven years. Since August, 1875, he has been superintendent for the Whitestone Manufacturing Company. He was married in 1865 to Susan G. Aynesworth, who died in July, 1875, leaving one daughter, Alice. Mr. Mitchell is a republican.

Orrin D. Mitchell, born in 1819 in Killingly, is a son of Lott and grandson of William Mitchell. His mother was Celinda Martin. He runs a grist mill on the Whetstone brook, between

Killingly Centre and East Killingly, where his father owned a grist and saw mill for many years. He was married in 1845 to Phoebe, daughter of Joseph Hammond. They have four children living: Wesley, Deloss, Oliva and Adelbert. They have lost three: Marcus E., Lovina and Celinda.

Luke Monahan, son of Thomas Monahan, was born in Ireland, came to America in 1850 and one year later came to Almyville, in Plainfield, where he remained until 1879, and for the last five years there he was boss farmer. In May, 1879, he came to Danielsonville, where he has since been overseer of general outdoor work for the Danielsonville Manufacturing Company. He married Ann Hughes and they have six children: Thomas, Michael, Mary, Bridget, James and Nellie.

William A. Newton was born in 1834 in Thompson, Conn., and has resided in Killingly since 1840. In 1859 he opened a store at East Killingly, and continued there until 1862, when he fitted up a store, and moved his business to the valley, one mile west, where he has since remained. He was married in 1854 to Abbie Mowry. She died in 1870, leaving two children, Melissa and Jennie. He was married in 1871 to Esther Gibson, daughter of Ira Gibson of Sterling. He is a democrat.

Joseph Oatley, born in 1816 in South Kingstown, R. I., is a son of Reverend Jonathan, whose father, Joseph, was a son of Jonathan Oatley, who came from England to Rhode Island in 1642. His mother was Amy, daughter of Joseph and Nancy Champlin. He came from South Kingstown with his father to East Killingly in 1834. He is a stone cutter by trade, although he worked in cotton mills several years when a young man. In 1843 he bought a granite ledge which he has worked since that time. He was married in 1838 to Cynthia, daughter of Moses and Sally Taft. They have five children: George W., Edward R., Joseph F., Sarah E. and Alice. Mr. Oatley is a democrat, and has been a member of East Killingly Baptist church for forty-five years.

William H. Oatley, born in 1824 in South Kingstown, R. I., is a son of Reverend Jonathan Oatley. He has been working at cotton manufacturing since boyhood. Since November, 1877, he has been night watchman in Ross' Mill. He has been justice of the peace twenty years in succession, and registrar of voters since 1872. He represented the town in the legislature of 1872 as a republican. He has been twice married, but has no

children. He has been a member of the East Killingly Baptist church since 1838, is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., also a member of the Chapter and Council, and a member of Marvin Waite Post, No. 51, G. A. R. He was in the war of the rebellion in Company K, 7th Connecticut volunteers from September, 1861, to August 1865; was made drum-major in February, 1862, which rank he filled until the close of the war.

Charles Paine, born in Killingly, is the eldest son of Lewis Paine and grandson of Joseph Paine. His mother is Lillis, daughter of William Hopkins and granddaughter of Barnett Hopkins. Mr. Paine is a farmer, and with his brother, Frederick A., runs the farm of his father. Since April, 1885, they have run a milk route in Danielsonville. They take great pride in their stock and fowls, which are of the best.

Frederick A. Paine, born in Killingly, is the youngest son of Lewis and Lillis (Hopkins) Paine, and grandson of Joseph and Drusilla (Hopkins) Paine. Mr. Paine's father was in California from 1850 to 1854. In 1857 he bought the farm of 200 acres where he lived until his death in April, 1877, and since that time the two sons have run the farm. Mr. Paine is a fancier of fine stock and poultry, of which he has some thoroughbred specimens. Mr. Paine's father was married in 1855 to Lillis Hopkins, and they had three sons: Charles, William H., who died in 1877, and Frederick A.

Christopher Paine was born in 1816 in Foster, R. I. His father, Joseph Paine, came to Killingly from Rhode Island in 1822. His wife was Drusilla, daughter of Barnett Hopkins. Mr. Paine is the only survivor of a large family. He bought the farm which he now owns in 1848, and twelve years later built the house where he now lives. He was married in 1843 to Miranda, daughter of William Hopkins. They have five children living: Harriet, John, Maria, Alzaida and George. Mr. Paine is a republican, and a member of the Advent church.

James A. Paine, born in 1834 in Massachusetts, is the youngest son of Ransom and grandson of Benjamin Paine. He came to East Killingly in 1857, where he kept a store for about four years, after which time he established a slipper manufactory, which he conducted about three years. He then sold the business and bought, in 1864, the store of A. M. Paine, which he has run since that time with the exception of three years. He was married in 1861 to Mariette Mathews. They have two sons,

James M. and Almond M. In politics Mr. Paine is a republican.

John A. Paine, born in 1850 in Woodstock, Conn., is a son of Martin and grandson of Cyril Paine. His mother was Lucia, daughter of Amos Perrin. Mr. Paine was bookkeeper and salesman for John O. Fox & Co., of Putnam, about five years. In 1877 he came to Danielsonville and in company with John Davenport bought the coal, lumber, fertilizer and builders' supplies business of O. M. Capron & Son. In 1880 the partnership was dissolved and the business divided, Mr. Davenport taking the coal business and Mr. Paine keeping the balance, which he still continues. He was married in 1882 to Fanny, daughter of Charles Dorrance. They have three sons: Everett A., Arthur R. and Wallace M. He is a member of the Congregational church and a republican.

Edwin L. Palmer, born in 1847 in Griswold, Conn., is a son of Asher and Joanna (Ames) Palmer. Asher was in the war of 1812. Mr. Palmer established an insurance and real estate agency in Danielsonville in 1875, which he continued until 1886. In September of that year he sold the insurance business to S. W. Crofut, and since that time he has paid all his attention to real estate and western land securities. He is secretary of the Danielsonville board of trade and was clerk of the borough from 1880 to 1887. He was married in 1871 to Phoebe A. Keach, who died in 1873. He was married in 1880 to Ella M. Kennedy. They have three children: Harry E., Gladdis J. and Charlotte. He is a member of the Congregational church and superintendent of the Sunday school. He is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., Warren Chapter, No. 12, and Montgomery Council, No. 2.

Joshua Perkins was born in Lisbon, Conn. He is a son of Charles, son of Joshua, son of Matthew, son of Joseph, son of John, son of John Perkins. His mother was Betsey Payne. Mr. Perkins began to learn dentistry about 1857, and came to Danielsonville in 1863, where he has since practiced. He has control of the state for an electric vibrator for extracting teeth. He was elected warden of the borough of Danielsonville in 1884, 1885 and 1886. He was a delegate to the democratic national convention in Chicago in 1884.

Charles Phillips, born February, 1848, is a son of Charles Phillips, who was a cotton manufacturer. Mr. Phillips was edu-

cated at the schools of Douglass, Mass. He was head clerk in a store in Sutton, Mass., for nine years, then had charge of one of the stores of B. B. & R. Knight in Rhode Island for one year, coming from there in the spring of 1875 to Danielsonville, where he has had general charge of the store and grist mill of the Quinebaug Manufacturing Company since that time. He has been several years a member of the court of burgesses in the borough of Danielsonville. He was married in April, 1868, to Sarah M., daughter of Benjamin Abbott. They have two boys: Charles A. and William A. Mr. Phillips is a republican. He has been deacon of the Westfield Congregational church since March, 1888.

Christopher C. Pilling, born in 1848, in Smithfield, R. I., is a son of Reuben Pilling, who came from England about 1844. His mother was Ann Withington. Mr. Pilling began learning the carpenter's trade at the age of sixteen, and with the exception of three years which he devoted to painting, he has followed that business as a contractor and builder. He was married in June, 1873, to Ellen M., daughter of Joseph Wheaton. They have one daughter, Maud W., and one that died, Bertha M. Mr. Pilling is a deacon in the Baptist church here, and has acted in several official capacities in the church, and also in the Sunday school. He is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M.

Albert S. Potter, son of Asa Potter, was born in 1815 in Thompson, Conn. His mother is Ruth, daughter of Edward Stafford. Mr. Potter worked at cotton manufacturing for several years. In 1870 he came to Dayville, and since 1875 has been boss farmer for the Sabin L. Sayles Manufacturing Company. He was married in 1838 to Eliza, daughter of Nathan Young. They had four children: Emily A. (Mrs. Samuel Cogswell), Alonzo A., Frank W. (deceased), and one that died in infancy. His wife died in 1852. He was married again in 1859 to Mrs. Almira Sweet, daughter of Leonard Williams. She has practiced medicine for several years.

Alfred Potter, son of Olney E., and grandson of William Potter, was born in 1823 in Foster, R. I. His mother was Orra (Cole) Potter. Mr. Potter came from Rhode Island to Killingly in 1848. He worked in the woolen mill of H. and S. Sayles about ten years. Then in company with Warren Potter, under the firm name of A. & W. Potter, he bought the Elmville mill property, which was built by Jonathan and Marvin Dexter, and operated the

same until August, 1874, when the mill was destroyed by fire. The same year the brick mill was built in its place, and the manufacture of fancy cassimeres was continued until 1883. The property was sold in 1886 to C. D. & C. S. Chase, and since that time Mr. Potter has been a farmer. He was married in 1860 to Maria, daughter of Stephen S. Pierce, who was a son of Thomas Pierce. Mr. Potter built his present residence in 1872.

Alonzo B. Potter was born in 1832 in Scituate, R. I. He is a son of Robert N., son of Robert, son of Moses, son of Robert, son of Ralph, whose father John was a son of Robert Potter, who came to Rhode Island in 1630 and died in 1661. Mr. Potter came from Rhode Island to Killingly in 1849 with his father, who was a spool and bobbin manufacturer in Williamsville from that time until his death, April 26th, 1878. He had charge of a store at Dayville two years, 1856-7, then was a farmer until August, 1862, when he enlisted in Company K, 18th Connecticut volunteers, serving until July, 1865. Since that time he has been a farmer, with the exception of five years, when he had charge of the Williamsville store. He was married in 1854 to Lucy A., daughter of Lawton Wade. They have one daughter, Alice J. (Mrs. F. W. Young, of Providence). Mr. Potter is a republican, and a member of Williamsville Congregational church.

Minnie N. Potter is a daughter of Robert Nelson and Rhoda (Parker) Potter, the latter a daughter of Joseph Parker. She is a sister of Alonzo B. Potter, mentioned above. Miss Potter lives in the house where her father lived from 1849 until his death in 1878. Her mother died in August, 1887. Robert N. Potter was a captain in the Dorr rebellion of Rhode Island, and afterward was made colonel in the state militia.

Charles T. Preston was born in 1848 in Killingly, Conn. He is a son of Charles, born in 1804, son of Levi, son of Daniel, a son of Levi Preston, who was a Scotchman. His mother is Eliza A., daughter of George Tyler. Charles T. is a house painter by trade. He was on the board of assessors two terms, and represented the town in the general assembly in 1884 as a democrat. Mr. Preston's father was married to Eliza A. Tyler. They have three children living: Lamira, Emeline F. and Charles T. Mr. Preston is a farmer. He lives on the Spaulding homestead on "Horse Hill." He taught school several terms when a young man. He was representative in 1846, and has been justice and selectman.

Frank T. Preston, son of Enos L. Preston, was born in 1853 in Brooklyn. He is a jeweler and watchmaker by trade. He came to this town in 1879, and November 3d, 1881, the firm of Preston & Carpenter was established. They bought the business of Amasa Dowe, which they still conduct. Mr. Preston was elected town treasurer October 5th, 1885, and on the 22d of the same month was appointed town clerk, which offices he has held since that time. He is president of the People's Library Association, treasurer of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., Warren Chapter, No. 12, and of Montgomery Council, No. 2. He was married in 1885 to F. Myrtie Chase. They have one daughter, Florence C. Mr. Preston is a member of the Baptist church, a deacon, and superintendent of the Sunday school.

Albert D. Putnam, born in 1852 in Brooklyn, Conn., is a son of William H. Putnam, and is the fourth generation removed from General Putnam. Mr. Putnam's early education was in the schools of Brooklyn and Danielsonville, and later he attended the state Normal school. He taught school for eight consecutive winters. He was a farmer until 1888, and since that time has lived in Danielsonville, where he intends to engage in mercantile business as soon as his health will permit. He was married in December, 1876, to Harriet, daughter of Charles and Janette (Sharp) Dorrance. They have three children: William H., Sarah J. and Eliza D. Mr. Putnam is a member of the Episcopal church, a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., and a member of Brooklyn Grange, No. 43, P. of H.

Royal C. Rawson, born in 1850 in Brooklyn, Conn., is a son of Daniel C., and grandson of Reverend Nathaniel Rawson. His mother is Eliza Copeland. Mr. Rawson is a farmer. He came to Danielsonville in December, 1877, where he runs a milk route. He was married January 1st, 1878, to Emily Martin, and has two sons—George R. and Walter A. He is a member of the Congregational church and a republican.

Nelson M. Reynolds, born in 1833 in Glocester, R. I., is a son of Orrin, and grandson of James Reynolds. He is a mason by trade. In September, 1868, he established a general store at East Killingly, which he still operates. He has been postmaster at East Killingly since October, 1885, has been assessor, member of the board of relief, selectman, and registrar of voters. He is a democrat. He was married January 1st, 1857, to Julia A., daughter of John White.

Arnold P. Rich was born in 1858 in Killingly. He is a son of Alfred, whose father, Rufus, was a son of David Rich. His mother was Alma A., daughter of Mowry P. Arnold, M. D. He was educated at the schools of East Killingly and Danielsonville, and has taught school continuously since 1881. He was married in 1885 to Emma L., daughter of Charles A. Potter, son of Stephen H. Potter. Her mother is Phœbe A., daughter of Israel Chase. Mrs. Rich is also a teacher. Mr. Rich is a member of the Free Will Baptist church of East Killingly.

Sabin L. Sayles was born in Pascoag, R. I., February 8th, 1827. He is a son of Nicholas Sayles, who was for many years a manufacturer of farming implements in Pascoag, R. I. Mr. Sayles received only a common school education. He entered a woolen mill at the age of fifteen years, and about one year later entered his father's factory, where he served three years. He came to Killingly in 1853, and five years later to Dayville, where Mr. Sayles' residence now is. Since being in Connecticut he has been connected with manufacturing, which is mentioned elsewhere. He was on the electoral ticket of Connecticut in 1864, and he was delegate to the national republican conventions of 1868 and 1872. In 1870 he was on Governor Jewell's staff with rank of colonel, and as a republican he has exerted a wide influence.

William H. Sayles, born March 10th, 1841, is a son of Harris C. Sayles, who, in company with A. Potter, took up a mill privilege west of Elmville, where a shoddy mill was built and run for a short time. Then Mr. Sayles bought Mr. Potter's interest and increased the business, and later began the manufacture of satinets goods. W. H. Sayles then took the business and conducted it about ten years, changing the production in the meantime from satinets to fancy cassimeres. Since 1880 he has rented the mill and machinery to T. E. Hopkins. He was married in 1863 to Phœbe S., daughter of James S. Cook, of Burrillville, R. I. They have two sons, James H. and Walter E. Mr. Sayles is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., and a member of John Lyon Lodge, No. 45, K. of P.

Frank U. Scofield, born in Killingly in 1858, is a son of U. B. Scofield, who came from New York to Killingly about thirty years ago. His mother is Abbie J. Young. Mr. Scofield is a printer. He worked on *The Transcript* for J. Q. A. Stone nine years. Since March, 1882, he has been in the job printing busi-

ness in Danielsonville. He built a residence on Cottage street in 1881, where he now resides. He has been steward in the Danielsonville Methodist Episcopal church four years, and Sunday school superintendent two years. He was married in 1882 to Ina W., daughter of Daniel Main. He is a member of Ætna Lodge, No. 21, A. O. U. W.

A. G. Scranton, born May 18th, 1833, is a son of Samuel and grandson of Fones Scranton. He is a painter by trade, having followed the business here about twenty years. He enlisted in August, 1862, in Company K, 18th Connecticut volunteers, and served until the close of the war as second lieutenant. In 1880 he bought the marble and granite works of William P. Adams' estate, which business he has since conducted. He was married in 1857 to Elizabeth Macomber, who died in 1886. They had two children: Fannie M. (Mrs. George L. Wilson, of St. Paul, Minn.) and Samuel (deceased). Mr. Scranton is a democrat, and a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M.

Job F. Seamans was born in 1846 in Scituate, R. I. He is a son of Silas, whose father, Job, was a son of Thomas Seamans. His mother was Alvira, daughter of Joseph Cole. Mr. Seamans is a shoe manufacturer. His father started a shoe factory in East Killingly, which he conducted until his death in 1883, under the firm name of S. Seamans & Son. Since 1883 the firm has been J. F. Seamans & Co. In 1887 the business was moved to Mechanic street, Danielsonville, where it is still running, with from eighteen to twenty hands. Mr. Seamans was a member of the legislature in 1878, and again in 1886. He was married in 1869 to Rosa, daughter of Frank McGrindy. They have two daughters, Nora F. and Ellie. He is a member of the Congregational church, a republican, a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., and a prominent member of the order.

Albert E. Shippee, born in 1844 in Foster, R. I., is a son of Philip and grandson of Anthony Shippee. His mother was Dorcas, daughter of Caleb Simmons. Mr. Shippee came from Rhode Island to Williamsville in 1859, and with the exception of a few years he has worked for the Williamsville Manufacturing Company, having been for seventeen years overseer of spinning. He was in the war of the rebellion from December, 1863, to October, 1865, in Company D, 1st Connecticut volunteers, and was promoted from private to sergeant in April, 1864. He was married in 1863 to Fannie Keene, and has one daughter. He is a member

of McGregor Post, No. 27, G. A. R. He started a livery stable in 1873, which he still runs.

Willis H. Shippee, Jr., born in 1864, is a son of Willis H. and grandson of Robert, whose father, Willard, was a son of Esek Shippee. His mother, Laura, is a daughter of Lebbeus Graves, son of David, son of Eseker, son of Lebbeus Graves. Willis H., Jr., was educated in the schools of Killingly, took a commercial course at Eastman's College and has since been a teacher. He was married in December, 1885, to Ida C., daughter of Cyrus Mitchell, son of Zebedee, son of William, son of Zebedee Mitchell.

Daniel S. Shumway, born in 1809 in Killingly, is a son of Noah and grandson of Peter Shumway. His mother was Lucy, daughter of Thomas Dyke. Mr. Shumway resided in Burrillville, R. I., from the age of four years until 1870, when he returned to Killingly, where he was station agent at Dayville for twelve years for the Norwich & Worcester railroad. Since 1882 he has lived retired. He was married in 1839 to M. Rebecca, daughter of Samuel Stiness, a sea captain, who was born in 1775 and died in 1816. She died in 1864, leaving five children: Henry H., James D., Sarah S. (Mrs. Benjamin Cogswell), Mary D. (now the widow of John Stokes) and Rebecca L.

Almeda Simmons is a daughter of Stephen and Nancy (Law) Smith, the latter a daughter of George Law. She is a granddaughter of Jeremiah and Joanna (Wilkinson) Smith. She married William Simmons, a son of Robert Simmons. He was a farmer and stone cutter, living in Foster, R. I., until his death. Since 1884 Mrs. Simmons has lived at East Killingly.

Alfred N. Smith was born in 1856 in Columbus, Ga. He is a son of Benoni, whose father, John, was a son of Doctor John Smith. His mother was Mary A., daughter of Silas Bailey. Mr. Smith worked in a store in Plainfield about four years. He came to Danielsonville and bought a residence in 1887, and fitted up one part for a store, where he does a general grocery and flour, feed and grain business. He was married in 1881 to Hattie, daughter of A. H. Bennett, of Canterbury. They have one daughter, Susie B. Mr. Smith is a republican and a member of the Baptist church of Danielsonville.

Russell F. Smith, born in 1860 in Killingly, is the youngest son of John and grandson of John Smith. His mother was Susan, daughter of Henry Fenner. He was for seven years sales-

man in the Attawaugan store, and for the last year he has been travelling salesman for a bakery firm of Hartford. He was married in 1882 to Carrie, daughter of William Tarbox. He is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M.

Henry Sparks was born in 1812 in Killingly. He is a son of Henry W., who was in the war of 1812, and died in 1886, aged 94 years. He was the son of John and grandson of Samuel Sparks. The mother of Henry was Lois, daughter of Abner Day. Mr. Sparks is a farmer and has lived in the house that he now occupies since 1815. He was married in 1838 to Lydia Ann, daughter of Jonathan and Loraina (Sparks) Aldrich. They have twelve children: Mary A., William H. H., Charlotta A., Lois D., Cassius M. C., Cassius M., John Q. A., Lurena B., Laura R., Julius A., Lilla N. and George W. I. Mr. Sparks is a republican.

P. H. Sprague, born in 1832 in Scotland, Conn., is a son of William B. and Joanna (Hutchins) Sprague, grandson of Samuel and Ruhama (Borden) Sprague, and great-grandson of Daniel and Selah (Wadsworth) Sprague. His great-great-grandparents were Thomas and Susanna Sprague. According to the records, she joined the South Killingly church in 1776. Mr. Sprague's mother, Joanna, was a daughter of Penuel Hutchins, M. D., a son of Ezra, whose father, John, was a son of Nicholas Hutchins, who came from England to Groton, Mass., in 1670. Mr. Sprague has been a carpenter for about thirty years. He was married in 1871 to Lora J., daughter of John Mahrs. He is a republican, a member of the Westfield Congregational church, and a member of the Masonic order.

Clara B. Stokes is a daughter of John Stokes, who was born in Wiltshire, England, in 1817, came to Providence, R. I., in 1848, and thence to Pascoag, R. I., where he worked for a manufacturing company for seventeen years. He came from there to Dayville in January, 1866, where for about ten years he was in the employ of the Sayles Manufacturing Company. He was married in 1836 to Phebe, daughter of John Gregory. The names of their seven living children are: Ann (Mrs. Robert Kershaw), Elizabeth (Mrs. E. K. Spaulding), Sarah J. (Mrs. H. Hanks), Fannie (Mrs. A. P. Bennett), Emeline (Mrs. I. L. Blanchard), Charlotte A. (Mrs. Dr. A. E. Darling) and Clara B. Stokes. They lost seven children: John, Elizabeth, Maria, Elnora, Mary E., Lillian M. and Lily E. Miss Stokes is an enthusiastic temperance worker, as is also her father.

Joseph W. Stone was born in November, 1830, in Massachusetts. He is a son of Reverend George, whose father, Joseph, was a son of George Stone. His mother was Olive, daughter of George and Betsey (Adams) Cundall, of Brooklyn, Conn. Mr. Stone is a harness maker by trade. He had charge of the harness department of L. M. Dean's works at Woodstock for eighteen years prior to 1871. At that time he came to Danielsonville and established a harness store, which he has since conducted. He has been justice since 1878. He was married in 1852 to Caroline A. Leach, of Putnam, Conn. They have one son, George M., and one daughter that died—Ella C. Mr. Stone has been a deacon of the Congregational church about ten years.

Warren Taft was born in 1817 in Burrillville, R. I. He is the oldest son of Moses, whose father, Moses, was a son of Myaman Taft. His mother was Sally (Ballard) Taft. He is a carpenter by trade. He came from Rhode Island to East Killingly in 1843, where he has lived since that time. He had charge of the building of the Whitestone Cotton Mill, in 1856, and had charge of repairs there until 1870. In September of that year he was made superintendent of the Ross Mill, where he continued until August, 1886, and since that time he has been a farmer. He was married in 1840 to Almira, daughter of Reverend Jonathan Oatley. They have two daughters: Almira E. and Mary J. Mr. Taft is a republican.

Israel G. Tefft, born in 1823 in Exeter, R. I., is a son of Jonathan, and grandson of Sprague Tefft. His mother was Mary, daughter of Israel Gates. Mr. Tefft is a farmer. In 1850 he went from Exeter, R. I., to Norwich, Conn., where he was a farmer until 1874, when he removed to Danielsonville and has been engaged in gardening and small fruit raising. Mr. Tefft was deacon of the Baptist church of Baltic about fifteen years. He has been deacon of the Danielsonville Baptist church about thirteen years. He was married in 1846 to Elcea M. Wilcox. They had three children: Mathew and Susan (twins, deceased), and William J. Mrs. Tefft died in 1871, and one year later Mr. Tefft was married to Mrs. Sarah Grant. Mr. Tefft is a staunch prohibitionist and an ardent worker in the temperance cause.

Hugh Thompson, born in 1852, is a son of James and Mary J. Thompson, and grandson of William Thompson. He was for several years with S. & H. Sayles, and has been with T. E. Hop-

kins since 1881. Since October, 1886, he has been overseer of weaving. He was married in July, 1872, to Almira M., daughter of Cyrus Mitchell. They have five children: Albert, Charles, Martha J., Benjamin and Ernest. Mr. Thompson is a member of St. Alban's church of Danielsonville, and a member of John Lyon Lodge, No. 45, K. of P.

William H. Tyler, born in 1848 in Middleton, Mass., is the son of Allison and Abigail (Wilkins) Tyler. In February, 1869, Mr. Tyler came to Danielsonville, where he had charge of the stitching department of the shoe factory of Abner Young for four years. He was afterward clerk for the James Brothers for eight years. He had charge of the "Moss Mills" store of Putnam for about six years. In April, 1887, he opened a grocery store on Furnace street, which he has run since that time. He was married in June, 1879, to Lucinda M., daughter of Ezra Allen. They have one son, Harry D. He is a member of the Danielsonville Baptist church and a republican.

Isaac Wade, born in 1818 in Rhode Island, is the youngest son of Charles, whose father Isaac, was a son of Nathaniel Wade. His mother was Sarah, daughter of Jonathan Pray. He was a cotton mill operative for about forty years, and for the last ten years has been a farmer. He was married in 1841 to Sylvia Young, who died leaving four children: Emily, Otis, Clovis and Charles. He was married again to Juliette Edson in 1863. They have four children: John, Fred, Nancy and Maud. Mr. Wade is a prohibitionist and a member of East Killingly Baptist church.

John Waldo, born in 1826 in Canterbury, Conn., is a son of Rufus, and grandson of John E. Waldo. His mother was Harriet, daughter of Simon Shepard. Mr. Waldo was brought up on a farm with his father. He taught school eight winters. About 1852, in company with his brother Simon S., he went into a variety store in Danielsonville. In 1861 they built a new block on the same site where their old store stood. Since 1870 they have dealt principally in flour and grain. Mr. Waldo was a member of the legislature in 1884. He was married in 1846 to Lydia, daughter of Elijah Rathbon. He has been a director in the Windham County National Bank for about twenty years, and a deacon in the Congregational church about thirty years. He is a republican.

Anthony D. Warren was born in 1820. He is a son of Dyer, whose father Eleazar, was born in 1760, and bore the same name as his father, who was representative in the general assembly in 1775. He was the son of Eleazar, and grandson of Ephraim Warren, who died in 1747, and was buried on Breakneck hill, in Killingly. Mr. Warren followed teaching as a profession until 1856, and since that time he has been a farmer. He was on the school committee three years, and selectman seven years, as a republican.

Lysander Warren, born in 1815 in Killingly, is a son of Dyer and Minerva (Durfee) Warren. Mr. Warren is a farmer. He came from Killingly Centre to his present residence in 1847. He has been on the school board about thirty years, and justice for about the same length of time. He was representative in the legislature in 1858, 1868 and 1878. He was married in 1844 to Marcia, daughter of James Mason. They have one daughter living, Angie V., now Mrs. Charles A. Perkins, and two that died, Josephine and Emma. He is a republican.

Edward L. Warren was born in 1824 in Killingly. He is a son of Artemas, and grandson of Eleazar. His mother was Sarah Cleveland. Mr. Warren is the youngest of six children. He is a farmer, owning and occupying a farm that has been in the Warren family for several generations. He built the house where he now lives in 1873. He was married in 1844 to Lucretia, daughter of Jonathan Parkhurst. They have five children: Lewis J., Lucius A., Frank P., Henry C. and Anna L. Mr. Warren is a democrat.

Frank P. Warren, born in 1852, is a son of E. L. Warren. His education was obtained in the public schools of the town. He is a farmer, although he has paid considerable attention to the wood and lumber business. He was three years selectman, and in 1884 was representative in the legislature. He was married in 1879 to Rose, daughter of William Ross. They have one son, Ernest R.

Henry C. Warren, born in 1855 in Killingly, is a son of E. L. Warren. He was educated at Danielsonville high school. His musical education was principally with H. L. Aynesworth, of Worcester. He began to teach music in 1874, and has from fifty to seventy pupils. He was married March 18th, 1879, to Emma E., daughter of Willard Barber, and has one son, Edmund L. He and his wife are members of the First Baptist church of Dan-

ielsonville, and he is a member of Ætna Lodge, No. 21, A. O. U. W.

Joseph W. Warren, born May, 1844, is the eldest son of Lester R., whose father, Ephraim, was a son of Ephraim Warren. His mother was Tabitha E., daughter of Joseph Arnold. He was educated at the public schools of the town of Killingly, and has taught school since 1870. He was married in 1870 to Isabelle M., daughter of Jonathan Young. They have two children, Eva L. and Milton S. Mr. Warren is a republican and a member of the East Killingly Free Will Baptist church.

Daniel R. Weaver was born in 1814 in Coventry, R. I. He is the only surviving son of Joseph, whose father, Jonathan, was a son of Joseph Weaver. His mother was Anna Greene, and his grandmother was Elsie (Weaver) Weaver. Mr. Weaver is a farmer. He came from Coventry, R. I., to Killingly in 1862. He was married in 1837 to Betsey A. Austin. She died leaving one son, Charles H., of California. He was married a second time October 7th, 1879, to Phoebe, daughter of Benjamin Tillinghast, of West Greenwich, R. I., and granddaughter of Benjamin Tillinghast. He is a member of the Free Will Baptist church, and a republican.

George Warren Webster, born in April, 1832, in Pomfret, is the eldest son of Ezekiel, who was born in 1805 and died in 1868, grandson of John and Sarah (Pease) Webster, and great-grandson of John Webster, who went from Massachusetts to Maine, where most of the family now live. His mother was Esther (Cudworth) Webster. Mr. Webster was educated in district and select schools. He came to Dayville with his father in 1842, his father having built the Dayville Hotel prior to that time. He started an axe and pick handle factory here about 1860, and a short time later began to deal in lumber, coal and grain, which business he still continues. He took charge of the Killingly post office January 25th, 1886, having been appointed the September previous. He was married to Nancy Sabin, who died in 1856. He married for his second wife Ellen L., daughter of Horace Woodard. She died in 1879, leaving one son, George W., Jr. He was married again in 1879 to a daughter of Chester Carder. He is a prominent Mason, having attained to the degree of knight.

John E. Webster, brother of George W. Webster mentioned above, was born in 1840. He was an iron broker in Hartford

from 1865 to 1883, and since that time he has lived at Dayville, where he owns and operates a small farm. He was married in 1864 to Amanda E., daughter of George Eddy, who was a son of Amasa Eddy, who was a nominee for lieutenant governor of Rhode Island in 1842, with Thomas W. Dorr for governor. His mother was Mary A., daughter of Captain Smith Mowry, of Rhode Island. They have four children: John E., Jr., Lillian E., Mary E. and Alice E. He is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M., and also member of Washington Commandery, No. 1, of Hartford.

John Welch, son of Martin Welch, was born in 1817 in Ireland, and came from there to Killingly about 1848, where he has since lived. Since 1880 he and his son Louis have kept a livery and teaming stable at Attawaugan. He was married in 1852 to Elizabeth Wright, who died leaving two children—William and Mary Ann. He was married again in 1862 to Sarah Cassidy. They have one son—Louis T. Mr. Welch is a democrat.

Ludentia A. Weld and Harriet N. Whitmore were born in Killingly. They are daughters of Reverend Roswell Whitmore, who was born in 1787 in Ashford. He was pastor of the Congregational church of Westfield from 1813 to 1843, and afterward was pastor of a branch of the same church at Dayville eight years. He was a son of Jacob and Hannah (Brown) Whitmore. Mr. Whitmore was married November 4th, 1813, to Avis, daughter of Shubael Hutchins. They had four daughters: Frances M. and Abbie R., deceased; and Harriet N. and Ludentia A., who now live in the same house where their parents began housekeeping and lived the most of their lives. Ludentia A. was married in 1838 to S. L. Weld. They had two children, Roswell W., of Chicago, and Harriet F. (Mrs. Reverend Joseph Danielson). Mr. Weld died in 1865. He was teacher of a select school for about twenty years. He was a deacon of the Congregational church.

David B. Wheaton.—Lucas Wheaton, of Swansea, Mass., was the father of Resolved Wheaton, who with his wife Zerviah (Buck) Wheaton, settled on a farm in the north part of the town, where the family now lives, at which place their youngest son, David B., was born in 1810. He married in 1834, Almira J., daughter of James Pratt. They had six children: George Henry, Sarah J., Sabra W., Lucy A., and two that died—George R. and Lucas R. George Henry is a carpenter by trade, al-

though he spends a part of each year working on the farm with his father. Sarah J. is a teacher, having taught fifty-two terms of school.

William H. Williams was born in 1846 in Foster, R. I. He is a son of Henry D. and grandson of Xerxes, whose father, Squire Williams, was great-grandson of Roger Williams. His mother was Lovina, daughter of Robert Simmons. Mr. Williams is a miller, and was seven years in the Attawaugan grist mill. In December, 1879, he came to Danielsonville, where he has since run the grist mill for the Quinebaug Manufacturing Company. He built a fine residence on Maple street, in Danielsonville, in 1884. He was married in 1874 to Lydia A., daughter of Lucius and Sabra (Bowen) Horton. They have two sons: Charles W. and Lucius B. Mr. Williams is a prohibitionist.

Bertha L. Wilson is the only daughter of Seth Wilson, who was a son of Zadeck and Ann (Robinson) Wilson, the latter a daughter of Seth Robinson. Seth Wilson married Emily Curtis, who died shortly after. He later married Ellen M. Lee, who was the mother of his two children: George L., now a resident of St. Paul, Minn., and Bertha L. Seth was a farmer and owned and occupied the homestead where his father settled about 1815. He died in 1864, and Ellen M., his wife, died in 1883.

Wesley Wilson was born August 26th, 1844, in Eastford, Conn. He is a son of Orrin, who was the youngest son of Charles Wilson. His mother is Amanda Havens. Mr. Wilson began in the mercantile business in 1867 in Putnam, as salesman for J. W. Manning, where he remained about fourteen years. He was then six years bookkeeper for the Quinebaug store in Danielsonville. In 1887 he took charge of two stores for the Attawaugan Manufacturing Company where he now is. He was married in 1868 to Emily E. Briggs. They have one daughter, Nellie A. Mr. Wilson is a member of Ætna Lodge, No. 21, A. O. U. W., a republican and a member of the Danielsonville Congregational church.

Julius F. Winkelman, son of Charles Winkelman, was born in 1837 in Germany, and came to this country in 1865. He lived at Mystic, Conn., until 1872, when he came to Danielsonville. In 1876 he started a shoe store and shoe shop of his own in the Central Hotel block, where he continued until 1888, when he divided the business into two stores, his son, Charles, taking charge of one. He learned his trade in the old country. He was married

in 1868 to Dinah Gensle. They have four children: Charles, Augusta, Julius and Frank.

Alton E. Withington, son of Edwin and Abbie A. Withington, was born in 1853 in Massachusetts. He is a photographer, having learned the art at Milford, Mass. January 1st, 1874, he bought the business of E. B. Slator, and since that time has continued in the business in Danielsonville. He was married June 15th, 1876, to Ida M., daughter of William E. and Philippa Graham. They have one daughter, Orcilla. William Graham was in the war of the rebellion in Company G, 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery, and was promoted from private to first lieutenant. He was a carriage painter by trade. He died several years since.

Marcus Wood was born in 1834 in Killingly. He is a son of Olney M., son of Levi, son of Aaron, whose father, Noah, was a son of John Wood, who came from England to Swansea, Mass. His mother is Dorcas, daughter of Jeremiah and Dorcas Young. Mr. Wood was interested in mercantile business for eleven years in different places prior to 1867. At that time he in company with his brother bought a general store at Dayville, which they ran until 1886. He was postmaster at Killingly about seventeen years. He has been a music teacher for about twenty years, and since 1886 has devoted his time to music. He has led the singing in the Congregational church here for fifteen years. He was married in 1854 to Ellen E., daughter of Lott Mitchell. She died in May, 1887. He is a member of Moriah Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M.

Amariah Wood, son of Olney M. Wood, was born in 1840 in Killingly. He was educated in the schools of Killingly. In 1859 he came to Dayville, where he was clerk in the store of Sayles & Potter until 1867. At that time he in company with his brother Marcus Wood, bought the business and continued in the same until 1886, when they sold out to William P. Kelley. Mr. Wood has been bookkeeper for Kennedy Brothers for the past year.

Simon H. Wooddell, born in Foster, R. I., in 1844, is a son of James B. and grandson of William Wooddell. He bought the grocery department of the store of J. A. Paine at Chestnut Hill in 1875, where he continued until 1885. He took possession of a farm on the road from Ballouville to Chestnut Hill in June,

1887, where he has lived since that time. He was married in 1870 to Flora M., daughter of Job W. Hill.

Wheeler W. Woodward was born in 1834 in Brooklyn, Conn. He is a son of Augustus and Caroline (Wheeler) Woodward, grandson of Ward and Rebecca (Putnam) Woodward, and great-grandson of Ephraim and Huldah (Cram) Woodward. Ephraim was a son of John, Jr., and Hannah (Hyde) Woodward, whose parents were John and Rebecca (Robbins) Woodward, whose father, George Woodward, was born in England in 1621; his father, Richard Woodward, was born in 1589 in England, and came from there with his family in 1634 to Watertown, Mass. John, Jr., above mentioned, came from Massachusetts to Canterbury, Conn., about 1710, settling on a farm which remained in the Woodward family until 1880. Mr. Woodward's grandfather, Ward, served in the war of the revolution, Mr. Woodward purchased the drug business of Crandall & Ladd in Danielsonville in 1868, which he has carried on since. He was married in 1865 to Anna Ross. They have three children: Mary I., Arthur P. and William F. Mr. Woodward is a member of the Baptist church of Danielsonville, and has been clerk and treasurer of the same for several years. He is a republican.

Abner Young, son of Israel Young, was born in 1819 in Killingly. He began the carpenter's trade at the age of 19, working at it seventeen years. Then he ran a shoe factory for seventeen years. In 1874 the firm of H. S. Young & Co. was established, Abner Young being the junior partner. In 1884 H. S. Young died, and since that time Abner has carried on the clothing business alone. Mr. Young was representative in the legislature in 1873. He has been warden of the borough two years. He was married in 1842 to Emily Baker. She died in 1857, leaving three children: Henry S., George W. and Eugene. He married Juliette Westcott in 1858. They had two children: Clarence W., who died, and J. Emily. Mr. Young is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and holds the office of trustee and steward. He is a republican.

Abner S. Young was born January 11th, 1855, in Killingly. He is a son of Jonathan, whose father, Israel, was a son of Othaniel Young. His mother is Janette, daughter of Israel Dorman. At the age of seventeen years he began to learn the carpenter's trade, which he has followed since that time. For the last five years he has been a contractor and builder. He was married in

1877 to Clara, daughter of John Dexter, son of Marvin A., who was a son of Joseph, a descendant from Gregory Dexter, who came to Providence in 1643. He was the fourth pastor of the First Baptist church in America. They have one son, Earl A. D. Mr. Young is a republican.

Charles E. Young, born in May, 1849, is a son of Guilford and grandson of Othaniel Young. Mr. Young is a carpenter by trade. In 1877 he took charge of the Windham Company's grist mill at Attawaugan, which he has run since that time. He was married in 1870 to Mary E., daughter of Stephen Tripp. She died April 10th, 1886. They had three children: Lily May (deceased), Frank E. and C. Fred. He is a member of Assawaga Lodge, No. 20, A. O. U. W., a member of John Lyon Lodge, No. 45, K. of P., and a member of the Congregational church of Brooklyn. He is a republican.

Ezra H. Young, born in 1818 in Sterling, Conn., is a son of Stephen, whose father was Jonah Young. His mother was Margaret (Bennett) Young. Mr. Young in 1865 bought a farm in the north part of the town where he has since resided. He was married in 1843 to Laura Burgess. She died in 1852, leaving two children: Ellen M. and Emerzetta. He was married in 1854 to Mrs. Mary Brown, daughter of Jacob Burgess. He is a democrat.

Jonah S. Young, born in 1809, is a son of Zephaniah, whose father, Jonah, was a son of Elder Asa Young. Mr. Young is a farmer. He was married in 1830 to Marcy Colvin, who died in 1833. He was married in 1834 to Maria O. Hubbard, who died in 1836. He was married in 1837 to Laura Spaulding. They have had eleven children, all of whom have died. Labin Harrington, born in 1824, is a son of Zephaniah, whose father, William, was a son of Amos Harrington. He has lived for the last thirty years with Mr. Jonah S. Young.

Jonathan Young, born in 1818 in Killingly, is a son of Israel and grandson of Othaniel Young. His mother was Margaret (Chase) Young. He is a farmer, having lived at his present home since 1848. He was married in 1843 to Janette Dorman, who died in 1877. They had eight children, four of whom are living: Isabel M., Abner S., Emily J. and Charles W.

Maxey W. Young, oldest son of William Young, was born in 1839. His mother is Amy, daughter of Arnold Watson. Mr. Young was a farmer and mill operative until 1862. In August

of that year he enlisted in Company K, 18th Connecticut volunteers, and served until June, 1864, when he was discharged on account of disability. Since 1864 he has been a farmer and mill operative. He was two years in Knoxville, Tennessee, helping set up and start a cotton mill in 1886 and 1887. He was married in 1874 to Eleanor, daughter of William Warren, and has one daughter, Josephine H. He is a republican, although he had formerly been a democrat. He is a member of Post No. 51, G. A. R., of Dayville.

ASHFORD.

John Baker came from Dudley, Mass., to Ashford about 1825. He had four children, one of whom, Enoch, married Mary Webster, and had seven children, six of whom are now living. Davis A., the second son, born in Ashford in 1835, was educated at the schools of his native town and the state Normal school. He taught school in early life, but for the last ten years has been engaged in mercantile business. He represented Ashford in the legislature in 1867, 1877, and 1887, has been town clerk and judge of probate several years. He married Eliza Walbridge, and has two sons.

Reuben Barlow, a son of Reuben Barlow, was born in Woodstock, and came to Ashford in 1845. He married Eunice Snow. They have three sons and two daughters. Henry C. and Anson G. are doing business as Barlow Brothers, lumber dealers, at Griggs' Mill.

Charles Chism, born in Ashford, is a son of David Chism. He was a soldier in the 16th Connecticut volunteers. He married Annie L., daughter of Chauncey Whiton, who married Lucinda Moore. He was clerk and treasurer of the church society forty years, and was a descendant of Joseph Whiton, one of the early settlers of Ashford. He had four children, of whom one, Samuel, was a missionary to Africa and to the freedmen.

John A. Chism, born in Ashford, is a son of David and Hannah (Snell) Chism. He enlisted in the 25th Connecticut volunteers. He is now a farmer. He married Martha N. More, daughter of John More, a descendant of Thomas Lawson, one of the first settlers of Union.

John S. Dean was a native of Ashford and a son of Leonard Dean. He married Hannah M., daughter of Stephen Knowlton. He was a farmer and also engaged in glass manufacture. He

held many official positions, represented Ashford in the legislature, the 14th senatorial district in the senate in 1877, and was county commissioner two years. He died in 1879. His son, Charles L. Dean, was associated with him in glass manufacture until 1873. Since 1874 he has been a member of the firm of Dean, Foster & Co., of Boston and Chicago, manufacturers of glassware. Charles Dean represented Ashford in the legislature of 1881, was county commissioner from 1869 to 1875, and was a member of Governor Andrew's staff. He is president of the First National Bank of Stafford.

Willard S. Fuller was born in Woodstock, and came to Ashford in 1842. He is a son of John and Hannah Fuller, and grandson of Elisha Fuller, who was a soldier in the revolutionary war. He is married to Almira Chaffee.

John T. Greene was born in Exeter, R. I., and came to Ashford in 1865. In early life he taught school. He represented Ashford in the legislature of 1871 and is one of the selectmen of the town. He married Lucy E. Davis and has three children: Frank W., Nellie A. and Annie B.

The Knowlton family were among the first settlers of Ashford. Robert Knowlton was a manufacturer of salt. One of his descendants, Daniel, married Hannah Knowlton, daughter of one Daniel Knowlton, a soldier of the revolutionary war, and brother of Colonel Knowlton of revolutionary fame. Daniel and Hannah Knowlton had three sons and three daughters. One son, Miner, was a graduate of West Point, a captain in the regular army, and served in the Mexican war. Another, Danford, was a merchant in New York. Edwin, the third son, resided in Ashford, married Mary, daughter of Otis Woodward, and had four children, one of whom, Robert D. W. Knowlton, represented Ashford in the legislature of 1889.

Stephen Fitts, a native of Massachusetts, came to Ashford, married Polly Knowlton, daughter of Colonel Thomas Knowlton, and had three children, Christian, Stephen and Maria. Christian married William Loomis, who was a farmer in Ashford, and had two children, Chester and Mary A. Chester was a farmer in Ashford and died in 1874.

Charles Mathewson came to Ashford from Woodstock in 1850 and bought a saw and grist mill at Warrentown, which he operated until 1865, when he was succeeded by the firm of Lombard & Mathewson, manufacturers of fertilizers and wholesale dealers

in agricultural implements. Charles Mathewson married Celia Hammond, and had five children, one of whom, John, married Ellen Carpenter and resides in Ashford.

Ira'G. Murphy, son of Archibald and Sabra (Gallup) Murphy, came to Windham county, in 1832, and settled permanently in Ashford in 1840. He engaged in trade which he continued till his death in 1856. His son John A. succeeded to his father's business which he still continues. Mr. Murphy was instrumental in establishing a post office in Warrenville in 1872 and was the first postmaster. He represented Ashford in the legislature in 1863, and has been appointed deputy sheriff five times. He married Mary Spaulding, of Pomfret, and they have one son and four daughters.

Michael Richmond, son of Abner Richmond, a soldier in the revolutionary war, was born in Woodstock in November, 1786, and came to Ashford about 1800. In early life he learned saddle making and afterward engaged in the manufacture of cloth, also axes. He was also engaged in staging and turnpike building, and in the mercantile business, until he retired at 60 years of age. He died in 1881. He married Polly Barnes and had seven children, of whom only Mrs. Juliette Child and Mr. Elizur Richmond remain in Ashford.

Ebenezer Knowlton, a son of Stephen, married Eliza A. Lyon. He was postmaster and a merchant at West Ashford for twenty-five years and died in 1866. He had six children, of whom one, Adaline, married Dwight Shurtliff. They have three children.

John C. Smith, a son of Asa and grandson of George Smith, who were farmers in Ashford, commenced business in Westford as a wagon maker and blacksmith about 1833. This business he has continued with his son until the present time. He married Polly Thresher and has two children—Susan and Andrew S., who married Mary Whitaker. They have one son, George D. Smith.

Joseph Smith came from Smithfield, R. I., to Willington, Conn., about 1785. He had seven children, of whom one son, John, a soldier of the revolutionary war, married Mary Covell and had four children. One son, Charles, married Hannah Thresher. He died in 1844, and his widow still lives, in the one hundredth year of her age. They had nine children, of whom Samuel, born in Willington, came to Ashford in 1866. He married, first, Almira Morse; second, Mary Thresher. He has two

children—Charles A. and Hattie, who married Clarence Walcott.

Lieutenant Daniel Knowlton married, first, Elizabeth Farnham; second, Rebecca Fenton. He had ten children, of whom Marvin married Celestia Leonard and had two children—Marvin and Maria B., who married Henry Upton. Marvin Knowlton was a man frequently consulted in business affairs and one who settled many estates.

Leander Wright was in the mercantile business in New York in early life until 1847, when he came to Ashford to the family homestead, where five generations of the family have resided. He married Sarah Fisk, daughter of William A. Fisk. They have nine children. He died in 1887.

EASTFORD.

S. D. Bosworth, born in Eastford, is a son of Allen and Sally (Hall) Bosworth, and grandson of Ebenezer Bosworth, a soldier in the revolutionary war, who married Elizabeth Fletcher. Ebenezer was a son of Benjamin who came from Rehoboth, Mass., and settled about one mile west of the church in Eastford. Mr. Bosworth represented the town in the legislature in 1865, and has held various town offices. He married Elizabeth Badger, and has three children. His only son, Henry A., married Margaret Buell, and is a farmer in Eastford. Clarissa, only daughter of Allen Bosworth, married Joseph Dorset, and has one son, Benjamin, in New York.

Jairus Chapman, born in Ashford, was a son of Roswell, and grandson of Thomas, a soldier of the revolutionary war. He was selectman and justice many years, and represented Ashford in the legislature. Jairus Chapman married Emily Morse, and their children were: Zeviah R., Elvira E. and Mary J., who is a teacher of long experience.

Darwin Clark is a son of Palmer Clark, who came from Charlton, Mass., to Woodstock and afterward to Eastford, where he died in 1879. His son Darwin married Mary, daughter of William Bradway. They have five children. Mr. Clark is a farmer and stock dealer.

John Holman, son of Thomas, was born in Union in 1778, married Mary, daughter of Allen Bosworth, in 1808, and moved to Eastford in 1816. Four of their children are now living. John, Newton and Emily live in Eastford. Emily married

Nelson Clark, son of Palmer Clark, and one of the most successful farmers in Eastford.

Joseph B. Latham, son of Laban Latham, came from Johnston, R. I., to Eastford, Conn., in 1823. He was a millwright. He was justice of the peace many years, and represented Eastford in the legislature several times. He married a Bullard, and had six children who grew to manhood: Joseph B., Lorenzo B., William H., Eugene E., James E. and Monroe F., who married Sarah Johns, and has one son, Oliver H. Monroe F. is one of the selectmen of Eastford, and represented the town in the legislature in 1884. James E. Latham was born in Eastford in 1841, married Elizabeth Adams, of Eastford, and has two children.

George W. Olds, a native of Maine, came to North Ashford, and engaged in the business of making staves in company with Silas Simmons. In 1872 he opened a store at North Ashford, which he has continued until the present time. He has been postmaster since 1874.

Silas Preston, born in 1798 in Ashford, is a son of John and Persis (Weeks) Preston and grandson of John, a soldier of the revolutionary war. He was educated at the common schools, and in early life was a farmer. He represented Ashford in the legislature in 1842, was selectman several years, also director in the Stafford Bank. Later in life he was president of the Eastford Savings Bank until eighty-four years of age. He married Betsey Wright, with whom he lived sixty-three years. They had eight children. Mr. Preston now lives with his daughter, Mrs. Spaulding, and is ninety-one years of age.

Freeman Putnam, son of Asa Putnam, was born at Charlton, Mass., came to Union when quite young, and to Eastford in 1854. In early life he was a shoemaker, and later a farmer. He married Huldah, daughter of Danford Morse, supposed to be a descendant of Anthony Morse, who settled in Massachusetts in 1635.

Charles A. Rice was born in Springfield and came to Eastford in 1857. He has been twice married; his first wife was Mary Connell, and his second wife Hannah Carpenter, daughter of Oliver and Mary (Allen) Carpenter. Mary Allen was a daughter of Ephraim Allen and granddaughter of Timothy Allen, who was born in Mansfield in 1748. Mr. Rice is one of the justices of the town.

John Sherman, born in Eastford in 1818, was one of the nine children of Zephaniah Sherman and grandson of David Sherman, who came to Eastford from Fall River. Mr. Sherman was educated at the schools of Eastford, was in mercantile business in early life in Eastford, also manufacturing, later in the mercantile business at Brunswick, Me., and at present a farmer. He has served as town clerk several years, also selectman. He married Laura L. Edgerton, of Massachusetts. The only surviving brother of Mr. Sherman, Isaac Sherman, is a clergyman at Thompson.

Augustus Spaulding, a descendant in the seventh generation from Edward Spaulding, who came to America about 1630, is one of the most successful farmers of Eastford. He married Abigail C. Richards, of Dedham, Mass., daughter of Ebenezer Richards. Their children are: Albert H., George R. and Carrie N.

Charles O. Warren, son of Isaac and Lydia (Sumner) Warren, married Mary L. Sumner, daughter of Increase Sumner, and a descendant of Benjamin Sumner, the first of the name in Eastford, who was born at Roxbury in 1724. Mr. Charles Warren is the present town clerk. He has been in the mercantile business several years.

Benjamin Warren, a son of Isaac, was born in Killingly, and married Elizabeth, daughter of John Fisher, who was on General Washington's staff in the revolutionary war. Benjamin was a farmer and auctioneer, and held several town offices. He had seven children, of whom Edmond W., born in Eastford, married Emily Edwards of Vermont, daughter of Samuel Edwards. Mr. Warren is a farmer and marketman. He has served as justice and selectman.

Robert Wheaton, born at Swansea, Wales, in 1605, settled at Rehoboth, Mass., between 1630 and 1636, and married Alice Bowen. Deacon James Wheaton, a descendant in the fifth generation from Robert, came from Swansea, Mass., to Pomfret, Conn., in 1778, and to Thompson in 1800, where he kept a hotel. His son, Levi, succeeded him in the hotel. Simeon A. Wheaton, son of Levi, was born at Thompson in 1829, came to Eastford and engaged in mercantile business, which he has continued for forty years. He represented Eastford in the legislature of 1882, was county commissioner from 1876 to 1879, and has been one of the most successful business men of Eastford.



University of
Connecticut
Libraries



